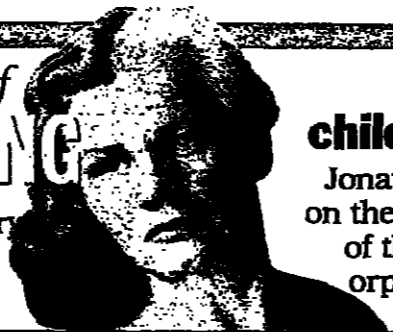


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Thatcher tells Tories to keep to Right

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS THATCHER will line up with the Right in the battle for the Conservative Party's future tomorrow with a warning that it cannot win by "lurching to the left".

And she will risk fuelling the feuding within the party by declaring that the Tories have not been as true to their principles as they might have been in the past few years.

The warnings will come when Lady Thatcher delivers the Keith Joseph memorial lecture — her first set-piece speech on domestic politics since she was ousted from office more than five years ago.

She will tell an invited audience of 300, including the Cabinet Eurosceptics Michael Portillo and Peter Lilley, that the party must stick to the

radical right-wing agenda she carved out for it with the late Sir Keith in the 1970s.

That, she will say, means holding fast to policies of low taxation, low spending, getting the state off the backs of the people, free markets and expanding consumer choice and opportunity.

But Lady Thatcher will not renew her criticism of John Major, whom she described in her memoirs as "drifting with the tide" and whom she failed to back unequivocally in the leadership contest last summer.

Sources close to her said that her speech would be the most supportive of the Prime Minister that she had ever delivered.

Lady Thatcher also denied reports received by *The Times* that she was deeply pessimistic about the Conservatives' chances at the election and that she believed that Tony Blair was almost certain to win.

She said: "It is certainly not inevitable that the Labour party will win the next election. In view of the lack of substance of the Leader of the Opposition's recent speeches, I believe that the chances of the Conservative party winning the next election improve by the day."

It is understood that Lady Thatcher will devote a significant part of her speech to an attack on Mr Blair. While she is understood to admire his courage in overhauling his party and reconciling himself and his party to many of her reforms, she will say that a Labour government would be disastrous for the country, pushing up taxes and spending.

Lady Thatcher's speech will come against the background of mounting despair among many ministers and Conservative MPs about their chances of preventing Labour from winning a handsome election victory.

But some ministers are still pinning their hopes of a revival on a combination of rising living standards over the next 12 months and "flushing out" Mr Blair.

One said yesterday: "The more speeches Mr Blair makes like his stakeholder nonsense in Singapore, the better for us. Once the country sees what he's got in store for them, they will think again. But if he's got any sense he'll keep it vague and rely on warm feelings to waft him into power."

Lady Thatcher has made many speeches overseas to raise funds for her foundation since leaving office and she

has given interviews at home and abroad, but her lecture tomorrow evening will be her first considered attempt to address the future of the party she led for 15 years.

She will do so at a conference organised by the Centre for Policy Studies, the right-wing "think tank" she helped Sir Keith to launch in the 1970s, and her speech will be in honour of the man who was her intellectual mentor.

Besides Mr Portillo and Mr Lilley, the audience will include John Redwood, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary; the former party chairman Kenneth Baker and Lord Tebbit, and Iain Duncan-Smith, a rising star of the Eurosceptic Right.

Leading businessmen and bankers will also be present.

But Mr Major, a patron of the CPS, has not been invited to what is clearly a gathering of the clans of the Tory Right for fear of embarrassing him.

Lady Thatcher was still writing her speech last night, and it was unclear how far she will go in repeating her strongly sceptical views of Europe. Mr Major will hope that she avoids inflaming the debate, which has reached fever pitch since Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberal Democrats declaring that the party was "lurching to the right" and condemning Mr Major's "catastrophic dilly-dallying".

But close confidants of the former Prime Minister said it was inconceivable that she would refrain from spelling out her vehement opposition to a single currency and her backing for a referendum on closer European ties. "From the Government's point of view, it will be a tough one," one insider said.

As recently as last summer in a television interview in Washington, she came out strongly against a single European currency and, in private, she has been expressing dismay about the renewed push towards integration seen at the Madrid summit.

Her speech will certainly be a boost for Mr Portillo, who has complained of a left-wing campaign against him since Miss Nicholson's defection. Yesterday Miss Nicholson renewed her attacks on the Defence Secretary as she prepared to take her seat on the opposition benches for the first time. She called him a cowardly creep and complained that the Tories were being pulled along by "the Portillo gang" who were creating a sect within the party.

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Hostages huddle together at the hospital in Kizlyar. The town itself has been sealed off by Russian troops.

Chechen rebels hold 2,000

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA faced a mass hostage crisis yesterday for the second time in seven months after Chechen rebels held some 2,000 people inside a hospital in the North Caucasian town of Kizlyar.

A group led by Salman Raduyev, son-in-law of the rebel Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudaev, shot two hostages and threatened to kill them all if Moscow did not pull its troops out of Chechnya and the rest of the North Caucasus. After night-fall shooting was heard on the streets outside the hospital. Ten civilians, seven policemen and seven Chechen gunmen were reported killed.

Speaking on Russian television, Mr Raduyev, 28, bearded and calling himself the "Lone Wolf", said he and more than 500 other fighters had entered Kizlyar in order to attack a group of military helicopters at the local airfield: "We got held up a little in the town intending to liquidate the military base." Mr Raduyev used to be the mayor of the Chechen town of Gudermes, the site of heavy fighting last month — and the raid may well be a revenge attack.

"We are carrying out orders as soldiers of General Dudaev," he said. "We are ready to carry out any of his orders. Until Russia recognizes Dudaev as the president of Chechnya-Ichkeria, there will be more Budenovsk and Kizlyars."



Raduyev: ready to carry out threats



determined to take a tougher line.

A hoarse and angry President Yeltsin harangued a meeting of his top ministers yesterday and accused them of laxity. In television pictures they sat in silence while he told them that information had come in warning of an impending attack, but it had been ignored. As at Budenovsk, a group of fighters who are supposedly hemmed in inside the southern mountains of Chechnya had managed to travel across Russian-held territory and pass through dozens of checkpoints.

"It would seem that the power structures, ministries, government and security council and border guards have not drawn any lessons from previous events," Mr Yeltsin said, jabbing his thumb on the table. "To let them travel such a long way when they had prior information about this group! How should we understand you generals?" The President went on: "Are you playing with toys?"

It seems unlikely that Mr Yeltsin, who was away at the G-7 summit during the Budenovsk crisis, will allow the fighters to escape. He is deeply unpopular in the run-up to presidential elections this summer. "If any lesson is to be had from Budenovsk it is that in the end negotiations lead to nothing," said Aleksandr Golts, commentator

with the military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

No journalists were allowed into Kizlyar last night, suggesting that the army might be preparing for an assault out of view of television cameras.

The Chechen fighters are a daredevil group, who are almost certainly ready to die for their cause. "If the federal forces and the Government of Dagestan want us to destroy this town we can calmly turn it to ashes," said Mr Raduyev.

"The appointment increases the chance that John Birt, the BBC's Director General and a

Continued on page 2, col 3

How a £12,000 casket improved between auctions

By DALMA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SOTHEBY'S was last night investigating the £105,000 sale of an ornate baroque casket after a number of experts expressed concern that it was a fake. The precious antique, decorated with cherubs and lapis lazuli, was sold by the auction house last December.

Sotheby's catalogue entry described it as shaped like a pentagonal sarcophagus with elaborate scrolling mounts that seem directly influenced by the work of Bernini and his workshop: "The wood carcase [is] veneered with lapis lazuli



The Lovejoy treatment: the casket before and after

and applied with gilt bronze scrolling mounts wrought with swags and garlands heightened with silver bead decoration ... the sides of the



lid [are] mounted with a seated silver cherub."

However last night some museum experts agreed with the respected *Art Newspaper*

that the casket was the same piece which Christie's sold for £12,000 three years ago — without the cherubs or the lapis lazuli. The 1992 catalogue said that the piece may originally have been embellished with figures and semi-precious stones.

The description compiled by Christie's, which sold the casket to an Italian dealer, noted the inspiration of Bernini and one of his contemporaries, Francesco Borromini: "This baroque casket, with its scalloped pentagonal form, asymmetrical scrolled feet, pilasters and scallop-shell handle-plates, was originally

enhanced by figurative bronzes and jewellery fruit-filled festoons of semi-precious stones or crystals, which were reputedly removed during the Napoleonic invasion."

The Christie's example was an ornolu-mounted and giltmetal casket with a silk covering. Then came the Lovejoy touch — the kind of improvement practised by Jonathan Cash's fictional antiquities dealer.

A Sotheby's spokeswoman said: "We have nothing further to add. No money has been paid out. Until it's been examined very carefully, we can't draw any conclusions."

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Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, including columns for fund name, bid, offer, and percentage change.

Advertisement for Deutsche Telekom London, featuring the text 'Just what is the best way to deal with Germany?' and 'We know how 0800 137 729'.

Continuation of unit trust price listings, including various international and domestic funds.

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I thought I meant a lot more to him than that. How could he be so cheap?

Anyway, the wedding and honeymoon have now been cancelled. I thought you should know.

Yours disappointedly

Michelle Brown

P.S. I'm keeping the Polo.



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SMALLBONE

'They took us by surprise,' admit police as campaigners mount blockade

Bypass protesters claim early win in battle of Newbury

BY ADRIAN LEE

PREPARATION work for the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the day yesterday after protesters blockaded 400 security guards into their farmyard base.

Anti-road protesters were claiming first blood in the battle over the bypass after they defied police for more than eight hours by blocking the two routes for coaches carrying guards to the site. Work had been due to start early yesterday on clearance work for the £100 million road. Thames Valley Police and Reliance Security, which was to oversee the start of clearance work along the 8.2-mile route, admitted they were taken by surprise.

Campaigners from the Third Battle of Newbury group struck at 5.30am yesterday, lying in wait outside a remote 2,000 farm at Sulhamstead Abbots, Berkshire, where the guards had been billeted. It belongs to Richard Benyon, who will fight the Newbury seat at the next election for the Conservatives. As coaches arrived at dawn to take the guards the 14 miles to Newbury, the protesters blocked both ends of the narrow lane with tripods made from scaffold poles and rope. Three activists, Simon Rowan and Dug, climbed on

20ft to the top of the tripods and perched there until 1.30pm when the protest was called off to allow an ambulance to reach two security guards. One had suffered a back injury, the other a suspected epileptic fit. By then the Highways Agency, part of the Department of Transport, had called off work for the day.

Police had eventually formed cordons around the two tripods at noon, warning the three campaigners that if they did not come down within a "reasonable period", they risked arrest for obstructing the highway. But officers were forced to hold back for fear of injuring the three men. Ian Blair, the Assistant Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, said police would not take sides in the dispute, but branded protesters "selfish". Operation Prospect, which will cost police up to £35,000 a week, is expected to go on for the 2½ years it will take to complete the £100 million project. Mr Blair said this use of manpower would have a knock-on effect on policing elsewhere.

The demonstrators were bullish. "They are going to have it so hard here," said Chalkie, a veteran of several anti-road protests. Reliance Security has also worked on

other road schemes and the two sides know one another well.

Tom Riall, area manager for Reliance, said: "They have taken us by surprise this morning but the guys are all resigned to things like this happening. We actually enjoy quite a good relationship with the protesters."

The three demonstrators on the tripods were cheered on by about 35 supporters, who tossed their success with soya milk. One campaigner found the time to rescue a worm, in danger of drowning on the muddy country road. Others handed round a collection bucket or sold oranges to raise funds.

Andy Drury, a legal observer for the campaign, claimed a local farmer had threatened to shoot protesters and stampede his cows through their ranks.

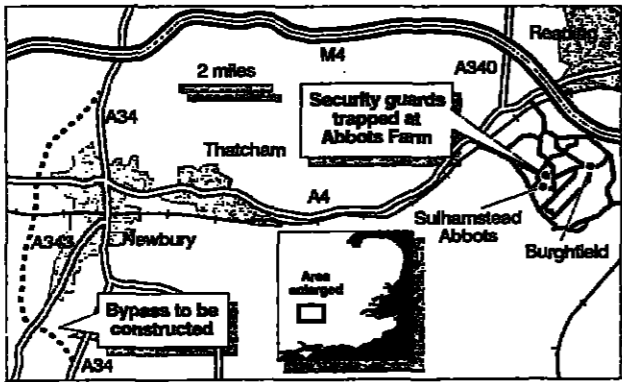
David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, arrived to put the case for the bypass and was confronted by demonstrators. "If this causes significant delay that is a pity. If these people would just go away it would save the taxpayer a lot of money," he said.

"The people of Newbury know what the problems of the current road are and that is why they strongly support the bypass scheme. It undoubtedly will do some environmental damage to the land to the west of Newbury, but that has to be balanced with the huge pollution problems that the current road is causing in Newbury."

One of those who argued with the MP was George Monbiot, a former water keeper on the Sutton Estate. The bypass will cut through part of a water meadow that is a site of special scientific interest. Mr Monbiot told Mr Rendel: "You are delivering an abomination."



David Rendel, MP, left, arguing with George Monbiot about the impact of the bypass on the environment



Guards from Reliance Security, old foes of the protesters, trapped in their base

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Pen could help trap Celine's murderer

By RICHARD DUCE

POLICE investigating the murder of the French student Celine Figard released details yesterday of a black and gold fountain pen she was carrying. It was given to her by a newspaper in Ferrières, Haute-Saône, where she worked as a delivery girl.

Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammon, head of West Mercia CID, said that the pen bore the name of the newspaper, *L'Est Republicain*, in black lettering. He said: "This pen is most distinctive and if anybody has come across one like this during the past three weeks there is every chance that it once belonged to Celine."

Detectives have already said that Mlle Figard, 19, travelled over from France before Christmas with an unusual bottle of champagne which is still missing. Her body was found in woodland near a byby outside Worcester, ten days after she accepted a lift on December 19 from a lorry driver at Chieveley service station on the M4.

Police are also trying to trace French accountancy textbooks Mlle Figard was carrying: *Comptabilité Générale*, *Maths Analytique*, *Maths Statistiques* and *Economie Générale*.

The strongest lead remains the descriptions of the lorry, a white Mercedes, and its driver, a white man in his late thirties with cropped fair or ginger hair. Police are working through a list of owners of 1,200 such vehicles registered in Britain.

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Police chiefs discuss plans for national crime-busting team after Moss Side attacks

Gang fired 27 shots at man saved by body suit



Supt King: appealed for wider powers to seize profits

By KATE ALDERSON AND STEWART FENDLER

POLICE chiefs will discuss proposals for a national gang-busting team with a budget of £100 million a year and 2,000 staff today as Manchester police investigate the latest attack in urban gang war.

Moss Side detectives disclosed that 27 shots had been fired at a man who was saved by his body armour in a street attack. Officers investigating two shootings over the last ten days in Moss Side have spoken of the dangers posed by the eruption of renewed gang warfare and "tit for tat" violence.

Today's special conference of chief constables looking at Home Office proposals for tackling organised

crime has taken on renewed urgency since the end of the two-year truce called by Moss Side gangs. On December 30 Raymond Pitt was shot dead at point-blank range. His driver, Maricos Basima, 17, was wounded in the leg and is now in hiding. Darrell Laycock, 22, and Owen Roche, 23, were questioned about the killing. Roche was charged with murder but Mr Laycock was released without charge. Three days ago Mr Laycock, who was wearing a flak jacket, and a woman friend, were attacked in Moss Side by three men who fired 27 shots. Both are stable and in hospital under armed guard.

After the attack on Mr Laycock Det Spt Alan Boardman, head of Manchester south CID, said: "How

many children and innocent people were put at risk in that incident? We don't know and certainly the gunman did not know."

Superintendent Lilian King, head of community policing in Moss Side, said: "People are killing and dying for money and status. They are putting those two things above life." She criticised drug dealers for using children to carry out their "dirty work" and told of a 13-year-old boy who was stopped by police and found with £1,100 in his pocket.

Supt King said dealers knew that children were less likely to be stopped by police and once youngsters were involved in the crime culture it was difficult for them to escape it. Teenagers were lured by the trappings of "wealth", she said,

and called for even greater powers to confiscate goods bought with the proceeds of crime. "It is a perpetual and very lucrative industry. When we take out the top guys, as we have done successfully in the past, they are replaced within weeks. We can win. We have more effective policing and interaction with the community but the police need to be able to seize assets like fancy cars, gold and other vulgarities of wealth."

"We do that now but we need to be able to seize the profits with less burden of proof than is currently necessary." Under the Proceeds of Crime Act introduced last November, courts were given extended powers to confiscate profits from serious crime by persistent offenders. The recent spate of shootings is

the first to be linked to the drugs world since a shooting incident in January 1994. Police pointed out that crime and firearms incidents had decreased in Moss Side during the past two years and last year there were 33 shooting incidents compared with more than 110 at the height of the drug disputes in 1992.

Under the Home Office plan, up to 1,450 detectives currently working for the six regional crime squads would merge with 500 officers and analysts at the National Criminal Intelligence Service to form one department. A national director general, possibly a senior chief constable or Scotland Yard commander, would be in charge with a director of operations and a director of intelligence below him.

NEWS BRIEF

Sams to be charged over jail assault

Michael Sams, sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Julie Dart and the kidnap of the estate agent Stephanie Slater, is to be charged with the attempted murder of a probation officer inside Wakefield jail last year.

Sams allegedly attacked Julia Flack during a surgery she was holding for prisoners in her office in the prison last October. Mrs Flack, 49, the wife of the Archdeacon of Pontefract, the Venerable John Flack, and the mother of two children, suffered minor neck injuries.

Advert falls flat

The Advertising Standards Authority criticised a poster for a Berlei sports bra which suggested it prevented drooping breasts, as there was insufficient evidence. Complaints were rejected that the advert, which had a skipping rope in the shape of sagging breasts, was offensive.

Bogus Ecstasy

Police in Birmingham have seized 2,000 bogus Ecstasy tablets that they say could kill drug users. The tablets, worth £30,000 and imprinted with a question mark, contain stimulants and anaesthetics. Police have charged a man and say pushers might be selling similar tablets as Ecstasy.

Dolphins killed

Eleven dead dolphins have been washed up along the south coast of Cornwall in the past nine days. Post-mortem examinations suggest that the mammals, which need to surface periodically to breathe, might have drowned when they became entangled in trawlermen's nets.

Parkhurst case

Three prisoners were committed for trial accused of breaking out of Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight last year. Keith Rose, 45, Andrew Rodger, 44, and Matthew Williams, 25, who are all serving life sentences, were handcuffed to prison officers in the dock at Portsmouth Crown Court.

Aerosol victim

Lisa Watkins, 14, collapsed and died after inhaling fumes from an air freshener while awaiting a performance of *Educating Rita*, in which her friend's father was starring. A verdict of death through non-dependent use of drugs was recorded at an inquest on Miss Watkins, of Bristol.

Clearing the air

A murder trial at the Old Bailey was halted temporarily by a dispute over smoking. Judge Coombe, who mediated after a juror objected to others smoking while considering their verdict, ruled that brief cigarette breaks would be allowed outside if supervised by a court usher.

Meningitis death

Gill Eyre, 30, a detective constable with the Northumbria Police, has become the seventh victim of the outbreak of meningitis in northeast England, a day after she was admitted to hospital. Her husband Tom is under observation as a suspected case.

Record 250 consultants top £100,000 in the NHS

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 250 hospital consultants have broken through the £100,000-a-year pay barrier in the NHS. They are leaders in their fields who have been awarded the top A-plus merit award, taking their NHS salaries to £102,240 before private earnings.

They are being joined at the top of the pay league by specialists who are in short supply and who are demanding six-figure salaries from NHS trusts desperate to recruit them. One NHS trust disclosed yesterday that it is paying ten consultants up to £20,000 above the NHS maximum in response to the shortages. Another said it had flown short-listed candidates from South Africa with all expenses paid.

Doncaster Healthcare NHS Trust, which provides care for the mentally ill and handicapped, is advertising for an additional psychiatrist in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal* offering "significantly enhanced remuneration of circa £60-£70K" to the right applicant. The current maximum of the NHS pay scale, without a merit award, is £52,440.

Liam Hayes, chief executive, said ten psychiatrists at the trust were on the same pay rates. "We have had major challenges in recruiting consultants over the past three years. What we have done is wrap up all the little extras that consultants can earn and lumped that into a new package related to performance."

The *Times* disclosed on Tuesday that Hartlepool and Peterlee Hospitals NHS Trust had spent £1,700 importing a retentive belonging to a consultant anaesthetist recruited from America as part of his employment package.

Brian Hanson, chairman of the trust, yesterday defended the package provided for Dr Craig Baldwin from Denver. "We are not unique in what we did. It is a common problem nationwide that hospitals have in getting suitably qualified staff," he said.

"Some trusts have hired



British entries: a 1926 Bugatti Type 40, 1929 Bentley 4.5 litre and 1932 Aston Martin, with the 1925 Lanchester hidden behind the Bentley

Vintage cars roll back the years to repeat pioneers' rally

A THREE-TON 1925 Lanchester will be among British entries in a re-enactment of the world's first motor rally, from Peking to Paris in 1907. The 6.25-litre car will join 99 other vintage and classic models for the

event in September 1997. The Lanchester will be driven by its owners, Peter and Sue Noble of Loughton, Essex, on a 10,000-mile route climbing to 17,000ft in the Himalayas and crossing desert. The oldest car will be a 1914 Prince Henry Vauxhall driven by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. The 40-day rally will take drivers from more than 20 countries across China, Tibet, Nepal, northern India, Pakistan, Iran, northern

Greece, Italy and Germany. Only five cars took part in the original rally and one broke down in the Gobi desert. The first to finish, after 60 days, was a seven-litre Itala driven by Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy.



View in the Corrie Butie, signed Victoria R. 1848

Victoria's Balmoral view goes on show

A LANDSCAPE painting by Queen Victoria went on general view for the first time yesterday in an exhibition of watercolours from Harewood House, near Leeds (John Shaw writes).

It showed a view near Balmoral and was copied from an original by Lady Charlotte Canning, one of her ladies-in-waiting, which is now in the Royal Collec-

Death-crash Chinook was new to Northern Ireland

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF helicopter that crashed into the Mull of Kintyre with the loss of 29 lives was the first of its type in Northern Ireland and had arrived only two days previously, an inquiry was told yesterday. So new was the Mark 2 Chinook that an airman who flew as a passenger on the day of the crash noticed the crew carried out routine checks slowly.

The fatal accident inquiry was also told that villagers in Northern Ireland remarked on the Chinook's low altitude as it set off on the journey to Scotland with 25 anti-terrorist experts on board.

The four RAF crew killed in the crash on June 2, 1994, had flown the Chinook on routine trips in Northern Ireland earlier that day. Their first trip was a 20-minute journey from their base, Aldergrove, to

Ballykinkar army base to drop off John Coles, then an air loadmaster-crewman.

Mr Coles travelled as a passenger, but because he was serving with the RAF also took part in routine checks in which instructions read from reference cards had to be acknowledged.

The crew had experience of Mark 2 Chinooks. Mr Coles said, but he was more familiar because he had returned to Northern Ireland from RAF Odiham, the UK base for Chinooks, later than they had.

"The checks were carried out slowly. It was very obvious the pilots were perhaps not as familiar with the [reference] cards and had not seen the aircraft for some two months," he said.

The crew collected Mr Coles later after carrying out routine troop-ferrying trips. He said they were late because an engineer had had to check a problem with a temperature gauge that had recurred.

Anne Tyler, 40, from Carnlough, Co. Antrim, told the inquiry how she had seen the twin-rotor helicopter flying low with a curious noise. It was so low that she could see trees on the far side of the glen, above the level of the helicopter. "It was a very loud noise," she said. "There was something strange about it. It wasn't a familiar noise. I had a gut feeling there was something about that noise."

Ms Tyler had spoken to villagers who told her the helicopter had skimmed rooftops. "As it went over the sea, one person actually said it was skimming the waves," she said.

The inquiry, at Paisley, Strathclyde, continues today.

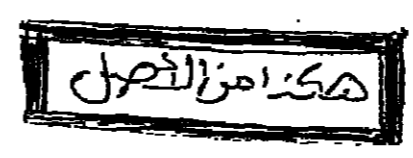
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Blair's 'Big Idea' makes him a clearer target for the Tories

The stakeholder society has been acclaimed by centrist pundits as Tony Blair's 'Big Idea' - the ideological Holy Grail which Labour has been seeking for so long as an election winning alternative to Thatcherism.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Labour's existing proposals: the minimum wage, training, opt-in to the social chapter, two-tier boards and formal recognition of the rights and views of trade unions, new responsibilities for utilities regulators, and a shift of the burden of proof in contested takeover bids.

This is implicit, for example, in some of the ideas on pensions which Chris Smith is considering, such as requiring people to make contributions to pension schemes with the state in the back-up role of guaranteeing a minimum income for those who have retired.

we shift the emphasis in corporate ethos, from the company being a mere vehicle for the capital market, to be traded, bought and sold as a commodity, towards a vision of the company as a community or a partnership in which each employee has a stake, and where a company's responsibilities are more clearly delineated.

PETER RIDDELL

Hattersley urges scrapping of 'silly' women shortlists

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ALICE THOMSON

ROY HATTERSLEY called on Labour yesterday to ditch its policy of women-only shortlists after the judgment by an industrial tribunal that the scheme is illegal.

sulted when the full judgment is given within the next two weeks and the party then has 42 days to lodge an appeal, although a decision is expected to be taken much earlier.



Jowell: defends the shortlist policy



Regent's Park and Kensington North, said: "The House of Commons is terribly out of touch on so many issues because it is run by an oligarchy of middle-class men."

Milton Keynes, said: "The old system was a disaster for women. We need this quick boost and then we can return to a more equitable system."

Bob Cryer, for Keighley, Maria Eagle, the twin sister of Labour MP Angela Eagle, for Liverpool Garston, and Julie Morgan, wife of the frontbencher Rhodri Morgan, for Cardiff North. They are all adamant that women-only shortlists are the best way forward.

Defence ministers under pressure to buy British

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DEFENCE ministers are coming under increasing pressure from MPs of all parties to back a Land Rover bid for a lucrative order of British army ambulances.



Mills: says British exports are at risk

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Suspects to have interviews videotaped

THE Government plans to introduce the silent video recording of police interviews with suspected terrorists.

opening a second reading debate on the silent video recording of police interviews with suspected terrorists.

Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC, that it was not yet time for that.

Lockerbie trial 'must be held in Scotland'

JOHN MAJOR insisted yesterday that the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie bombing should be tried in Scotland.

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Sony CM-R111K advertisement including price (£9.99), features (9 speed dial, 60 mins talk-time), and contact information.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons, questions to Justice Ministers and the Prime Minister. A statement on Holywell prison was followed by a debate on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill.

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Man dies in Serb grenade attack on Sarajevo tram

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serb gunners opened fire on Sarajevo yesterday evening, hitting a tram with a rocket propelled grenade as it sped along the capital's main avenue. One man was killed and six other people, including a child, were wounded.

Serb snipers simultaneously opened fire on civilians as they strolled through the city streets, which had been almost quiet since the ceasefire took hold on October 12. Several other explosions were heard from the Serb-held neighbourhood of Buvica, in the centre of Sarajevo. Nato forces returned fire with 20mm machinegun rounds, but it was not clear if they hit their target.

The Serb actions come at a time when Nato forces are in the process of deploying 60,000 troops to enforce the Dayton peace agreement. Unlike the United Nations peace force, Nato has vowed to stand up to Serb aggression.

Shortly before they began firing on the capital, the rebel Serbs set fire to a number of buildings they plan to vacate. The fires, which lit up the night sky north of the capital, ignited fears of a mass exodus that could severely embarrass the international community and the Nato peace implementation force.

Up to 75,000 Serbs live in five Serb-held neighbourhoods which are to revert to Bosnian government control under the terms of the Dayton accord. They say they cannot live under the rule of a government they have been fighting for three and a half years.

On January 19 the Serb militia in the five Serb-held areas must disarm and disband, a requirement Serbs say will leave them unprotected and vulnerable to retributions by the Bosnian Government. By February 3 all of their forces, including the

police, must completely withdraw and mark all their minefields.

Over the past few days, residents in the Serb-held areas around Sarajevo have been packing up their belongings and moving them to towns in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina that have been ethnically cleansed of Muslims.

On Vreoca Street in the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza, half the houses stand empty. "We're just waiting to see if the deadline will be extended before leaving," said Elez Luka, a 54-year-old resident.

In Geneva yesterday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that the Bosnian government army was blocking the planned release of 900 prisoners from the Bosnian war.

Clinton visit: President Clinton will visit American troops in Bosnia this weekend, the White House said last night. (Reuter)



Rescuers search for survivors in the wreckage of the aircraft that crashed in a crowded marketplace in Kinshasa

Lax standards blamed for Zaire crash

AVIATION officials in Zaire condemned lax safety standards yesterday as people in Kinshasa, the capital, mourned the victims of an aircraft crash that killed at least 297 people at an open-air market.

The cause of Monday's crash was not known, but early reports indicated that the Russian-made Antonov 32 was flying without authorisation. Bernardin Munguendeaka, the Transport Minister, said the aircraft was at least 595lb overweight. An official inquiry began yesterday into

the crash. Airport authorities said the turboprop was carrying 6,000lb of oil, flour and salted fish and was bound for Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels in Angola. The aircraft hit the ground soon after it took off from Kinshasa's Ndolo airport, about three miles from hotels and embassies, skidded across a busy street and into the crowded market.

The four Russian crew survived, and one was in hospital with minor injuries. The others were in police custody yesterday to protect them from angry Zaireans. The authorities said they were not facing criminal charges.

The Government called for two days of mourning and grounded cargo flights. "The rules of civil aviation are never respected here," Baudoin Rudahindwa, the head of the pilots' union, said. "If they had been, we could have avoided this."

Aircraft from Zaire are not allowed to fly to the United States because of concerns about their safety. (AP)

Spy chief takes over Kozyrev's ministry

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, was named Foreign Minister yesterday as successor to Andrei Kozyrev, who resigned last week.

A Middle East expert, Mr Primakov, 66, can be expected to defend Moscow's traditional links with Iran and Iraq. Otherwise he can be expected to do President Yeltsin's bidding on foreign policy. In the past two years, Mr Yeltsin has made clear that he is strongly opposed to the enlargement of Nato into Eastern Europe.

He has begun to make strong statements about the 25 million Russians living in the rest of the former Soviet Union and has insisted on Moscow's right to sell nuclear technology to Iran. Mr Primakov can be relied on to provide a tough face for tough policies. His appointment shows that Mr Yeltsin has decided to rely more on men of his generation than on the young reformers he used to surround himself with.

Bosnia tribunal studies Britons' torture claims

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations war crimes tribunal is seeking to interview five soldiers of The Royal Welch Fusiliers who were among 33 members of the regiment held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs last year, after allegations of psychological torture and mistreatment.

It is the first time that British soldiers serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina have made allegations sufficiently serious to be considered by the tribunal based in The Hague.

All 33 soldiers from The Royal Welch Fusiliers who were captured by the Serbs while serving in Gorazde, the Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, were debriefed when they were returned to Britain after up to ten days as hostages. A full report on the debriefings was passed to the tribunal.

Sources close to the tribunal said there was at least one case of a soldier enduring a mock execution in which a Serb held

who were released after five days last June said they were well-treated but they were under orders to say nothing controversial because of fears for the remaining hostages.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, the Serb army commander, were told that they would be held personally responsible for the well-being of the British soldiers.

Apart from the 33 members of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, an RAF officer, Flight Lieutenant Andy Hall was also held hostage.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "Happily all the hostages were released and returned safely."

The tribunal, which has to ask permission to interview the five soldiers, is expected to study the allegations as potential "grave breaches" of the Geneva Convention.

James Gow, a British academic who gave evidence to the first hearing of the tribunal last year, said: "Any allegations like this should be passed to the tribunal and I would hope that the Government would give every assistance in pursuing the matter."

The 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers is currently based at Beadley barracks near Chesham. Last month the regiment published a diary of its six-month deployment in Gorazde, which was one of the most dangerous tours by a British infantry battalion in the three-year UN peacekeeping operation.

The diary, written mainly by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Riley, the commanding officer of the battalion, did not refer to the mistreatment of the hostages. Colonel Riley did not wish to make any comment yesterday.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said it was vital that all allegations of psychological torture should be fully investigated and that the Ministry of Defence should allow the soldiers to give evidence to the war crimes tribunal.

Labour tried to raise the torture allegations in the Commons yesterday, but Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said he was unaware of the reports of mistreatment.



David Jones, one of the fusiliers held hostage

a gun to his head and said he would be shot if another Nato aircraft flew overhead to drop bombs.

The sources said there may have been other mock executions and one soldier suffering from a kidney disorder was refused treatment. Others had been chained to Serb military installations.

A spokesman for the tribunal, which has so far dealt with 53 war crimes allegations in the former Yugoslavia and indicted 12 individuals, said: "The taking of hostages and their use as human shields are part of our investigations." The first batch of 11 soldiers

American balloonist reaches the Atlantic

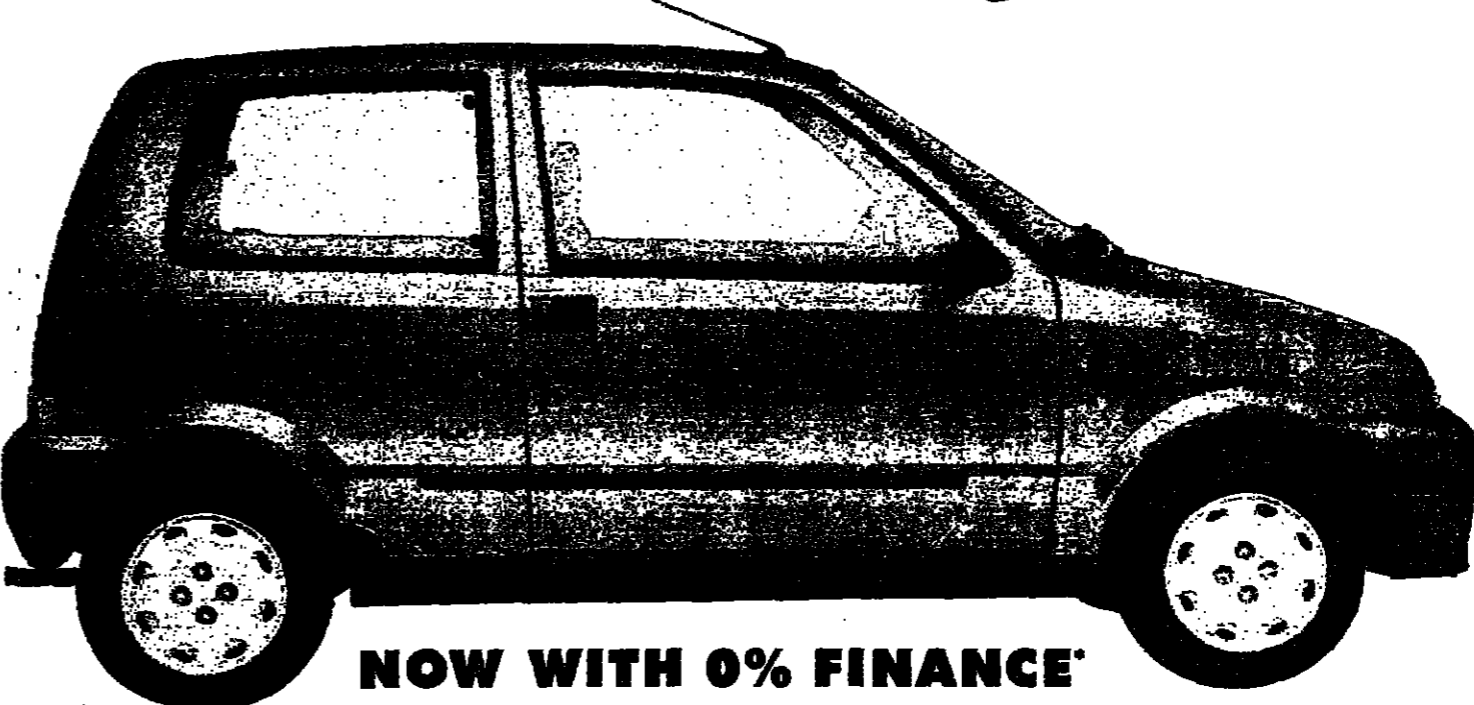
BY OLIVER AUGUST

STEVE FOSSETT, the Chicago banker who aims to be the first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon, last night reached the Atlantic Ocean after lifting off from South Dakota on Monday.

Having flown across the snow-covered eastern states without problems in Solo Challenger, he will today attempt the perilous Atlantic crossing. His team of meteorologists has advised him to fly lower and therefore more slowly to avoid unfavourable weather over Western Europe. They hope he will fly south towards the Mediterranean from where he will continue towards the Middle East and Kazakhstan.

Frank Hartmann, who monitors the voyage from Loyola University in Chicago, said: "It is extremely cold up there, around -40C (-40F). Repositioning him at below 18,000ft may also make it a bit warmer for him. He is desperately trying to catch up on some sleep."

Mr Fossett's problems will significantly improve Richard Branson's chances of beating him. The British tycoon is due to lift off from Morocco in Virgin Global Challenger early next week. Mr Branson's balloon is fully heated and pressurised and can fly at an altitude of up to 40,000ft, leaving bad weather below it.



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Day 3 of our series: Vitality and vitamins — plus an age-old problem...

■ Is it true that food supplements can help us to stay young? Below, Rita Carter explains how increased doses of vitamins may reduce the risk of major life-threatening diseases, and Dr Thomas Stuttaford offers some helpful advice to couples who find their love lives flagging in middle age

■ Opposite, we look at ways to stay bright and alert well into old age



TOMORROW

■ The truth about the male menopause, and the effects of HRT on women, by **Jeremy Laurance**

■ How learning to breathe properly will keep you young, by **Leslie Kenton**

■ How effective are the remedies for baldness, by **Rita Carter**

Pills that offer the elixir of life

SUPPLEMENTS CAN PREVENT AGE-RELATED DISEASES

Are food supplements really necessary? The answer is no. Provided you eat a balanced diet, you can survive quite happily without them.

But most people want to do more than survive. They want to glow and bounce with health and energy; they want to remain wrinkle-free and sexually frolicsome and, above all, they want to go on that way for a long, long time.

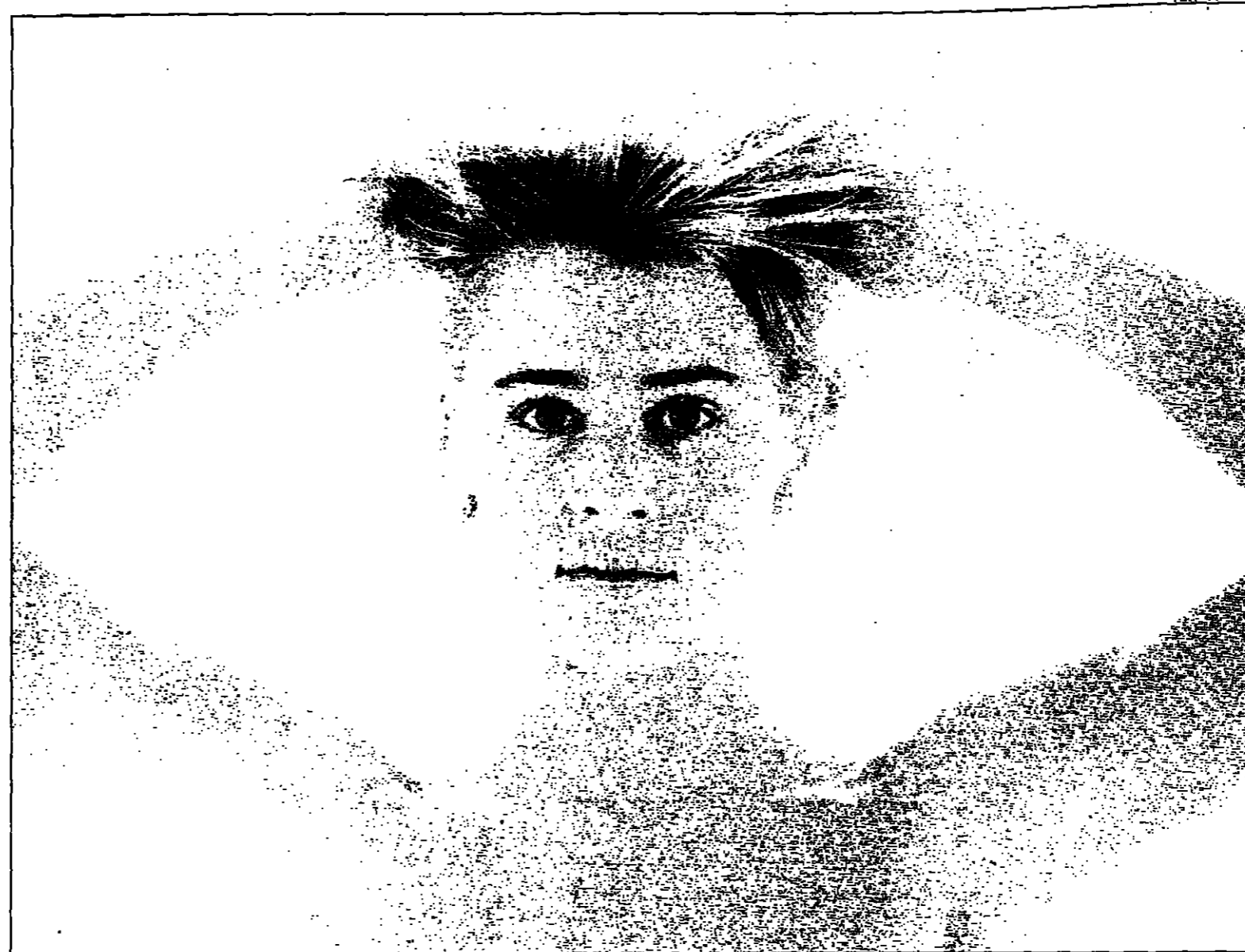
Food supplements promise these things, and there is more and more evidence to suggest they can deliver. It is now widely accepted that vitamins and minerals, taken in doses larger than are normally found in the UK diet, can help to prevent nearly all the major age-related diseases.

For example, antioxidant supplements such as vitamins A, C and E have been shown, repeatedly, to reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, strokes and cataracts. Some studies have suggested that high-dose antioxidant supplements may even prevent Parkinson's disease. Garlic reduces blood pressure, while ginseng is said to boost libido.

Thiamine has been found in one study to reduce the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease; chromium seems to help to prevent middle-age spread and late-onset diabetes, and calcium plus vitamin D supplements help to guard against osteoporosis. Green-lipped mussel and shark cartilage extracts reduce symptoms of arthritis, and evening primrose oil can help to keep ageing skin elastic.

However exotic their names and miraculous the claims for them, nearly all supplements fall into five main categories.

RITA CARTER



Stay young and beautiful: food supplements promise to help you to glow and bounce with health, remain wrinkle-free and sexually frolicsome.



VITAMIN A
Type: antioxidant, dose: 7,500iu, protects eyesight; helps to repair skin, nails and hair; may help to prevent mouth and lung cancer.

VITAMIN B12
Type: metabolic catalyst/body-builder, dose: 500mcg, protects against anaemia; boosts energy; reputed to help to counteract depression and confusion.

BETA-CAROTENE
Type: antioxidant/immune booster, dose: 6mg, protects skin from sun damage; boosts immunity; helps to prevent lung disease.

VITAMIN C
Type: antioxidant, dose: 500-

WHAT A SUPPLEMENTARY ANTI-AGEING DOSE CAN DO FOR YOU

1,000mg, helps to repair skin; boosts resistance to infection; prevents cataracts and gum disease. Possible protection against Parkinson's disease.

VITAMIN E
Type: antioxidant/immune booster, dose: 400iu, delays skin ageing; protects against cardiovascular disease; possibly boosts energy levels.

THIAMINE (B1)
Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: 100mg, may reduce symptoms of Alzheimer's disease; may alleviate sciatica, lumbago and improve heart function.

CALCIUM
Type: body-builder, dose: 1,200mg, strengthens bones; possibly helps heart functions.

FISH OIL
Type: metabolic catalyst/immune booster, dose: 1,200mg, helps to keep all body functions healthy; boosts immune system and protects against heart disease, arthritis and some cancers.

SILICA
Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: not established, possibly useful in removing aluminium which might be a causal factor in Alzheimer's disease.

MAGNESIUM
Type: metabolic catalyst and absorption aid, dose: 500mg, protects against many types of cardiovascular disease.

ZINC
Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: 25mg, helps to maintain fertility and libido; protects against loss of taste and smell.

GARLIC
Type: immune booster/antioxidant, dose: 1,000mcg, improves circulation, might protect against cancer. Wards off infection.

EVENING PRIMROSE OIL
Type: metabolic catalyst and immune booster, dose: 2,000mg, improves skin, counteracts effects of smoking and pollution, possible heart protection.

GINSENG
Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: 250mg, testosterone booster; reputed to lift libido and increase potency. May also increase mental efficiency.

MUSSEL EXTRACT
Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: not established, eases arthritis.

RITA CARTER

When a woman must take the lead

SEX IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, Seligman, Newman and Nichols were the pundits whose research on sexual response in the 1960s and 1970s was universally accepted.

Some of their statistics are now questioned, but everyday medical practice confirms their view that a man's libido (sexual drive), which is so much greater than a woman's in youth, starts to lessen at least ten years before hers does.

Most women not only retain their libido into middle age, but often find that it increases.

Research published in the 1970s shows that if they do have a poor sex life it is usually because of their partner's behaviour.

But we men are proud and conceited, and subtlety and tact are called for if our potency is to be preserved. By late middle-age, the time when a woman is setting the pace, she may find that signalling her sexual needs by wearing a stronger scent, or putting a few more candles on the dinner table, no longer works.

ideal state, in which the increasing sexual desire which may have characterised premenopausal years will level off.

Research published in the 1960s shows that a woman's sex life tends to follow the pattern set by older members in her family, but it is difficult to know whether this is determined genetically or culturally.

As with men, a distinction has to be made between the physical and the cerebral in any decline of sexual ability. Women's sexual drive, before HRT was available, was not always coupled with a comparable ability. Women, like men, often find that they suffer from reduced sensitivity. Their orgasms may not be as powerful, and they may lose the female ability to achieve multiple orgasms. The absence of lubrication has always been considered as the female equivalent of male impotency, but in fact the changes of sexual ageing in a woman are much more subtle.

Fortunately for those women who are suitable for treatment with HRT many of



The older woman's needs — in *The Graduate* Mrs Robinson (Anne Bancroft) seduced the young Dustin Hoffman

the main cause for discontinuing it has been the side-effects — the worst of which are severe premenstrual-type troubles. However, it is claimed that women with

teeth, and has a beneficial effect on the cardiovascular system. HRT also lessens the likelihood of menopausal depression and, used in carefully selected cases, can even cure it.

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Women in sheep's clothing



Classic knitwear can be worn for work and after dark — and it lasts

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

There can be few items of clothing more useful than classics in cashmere, lambswool and wool mixes. They provide the basis of an endless variation of looks, from casual to smart, for work and play. Discovering these valuable pieces at discounted prices is an extra bonus — there can be no better time to buy knitwear than during the sales. The choice available is unlimited from the specialised cashmere

houses, designer labels, department stores and high-street brands. There are few who do not offer some form of knitwear. The traditional silhouettes work best. Still favourite is the perennial twinset as worn by everyone from Vivienne Westwood to the Queen. However, what could be more useful than a camel V-neck sweater, or grey polo-neck? Wear either under a sleek trouser suit à la Lauren Hutton or Katharine Hepburn, or over a dress to give the illusion of a two-piece outfit. Alternatively, dress it down with denim. The adaptability of these knitted classics is the key and



ABOVE: Pale grey turtleneck sweater, £49.99, Kookai, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411). Blue bias-cut long skirt, £29.99, Top Shop, branches nationwide (0171-291 2351).

affords them worth beyond what may appear to be rather high price-tags. They are worth it because they are hardworking. If cared for correctly, they will last for many years. Established cashmere labels such as N. Peal and Ballantyne operate after-sales services, cleaning and redressing their customers' favourite purchases for a nominal charge.

There is also the Cashmere Clinic in London, a hospital for the poorly pullover, which provides a specialist washing treatment to restore shape and texture, a full remodelling service and even alterations and repairs. The clinic also operates a postal service.



TOP: Camel round-neck short-sleeve top, £115, Aquascutum (0800 282922). Gold organza skirt, £850, Isabell Kirstensen, 33 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-589 1798). Cream ballet pumps, £85.50, Russell & Bromley, selected branches, 24-25 New Bond St, W1 (0171-629 6903).

LEFT ABOVE: Camel V-neck sweater, £155, The Scotch House, 2 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-581 2151). Gold lace skirt, £825, Liberty, Regent St, W1 (0171-734 1234).

RIGHT ABOVE: Pale grey cardigan, £24.99, rib sweater, £19.99, both from Dorothy Perkins, selected branches (0171-291 2804). Grey silk skirt, £285, Aquascutum (0800 282922).

Photographs by IAIN R. WEBB. Make-up by Jo Karsberg. Hair by James Dodds. Prices and availability may vary because of sales.

ballgown skirt in silk taffeta or satin; this season Bill Blass showed a sleeveless polo-neck sweater with a sequin column skirt.

A sweater worn with a swanky skirt makes an easy choice for evening. Camel is a perfect match for gold, while grey works best with silver or midnight blue. The look can

also add a little glamour when simply entertaining friends at home.

Although the image of such standard knitted styles may at first appear a touch worthy and dull, this is definitely their moment to shine.

• Cashmere Clinic is at 11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (0171-584 9806).

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Sexual harassment - the price of speaking out

Women who took their employers to court talk to **Julia Llewellyn Smith**

WHEN Joanne Milne asked for a day off work to go for a hospital check-up, she was told that she probably had cervical cancer because she slept around so much. When she gave a sales presentation, a colleague told her that nobody was listening because everybody was too busy looking at her bottom. When she complained, she was told that she was a feminist with a chip on her shoulder.

Eventually, Miss Milne, 27, had no choice but to resign from her job at Andegauge, an oil-related services company in Aberdeen. Six weeks later, she filed a claim for sex discrimination.

Next Monday in a *Cutting Edge* documentary on Channel 4, Miss Milne talks about how the final straw came when Andegauge offered her a promotion running the company's American office, but with no increase in salary. When she pointed out that she would be earning far less than the man she was replacing, her bosses told her that her arrogance was breathtaking and that she was earning good money for a girl her age.

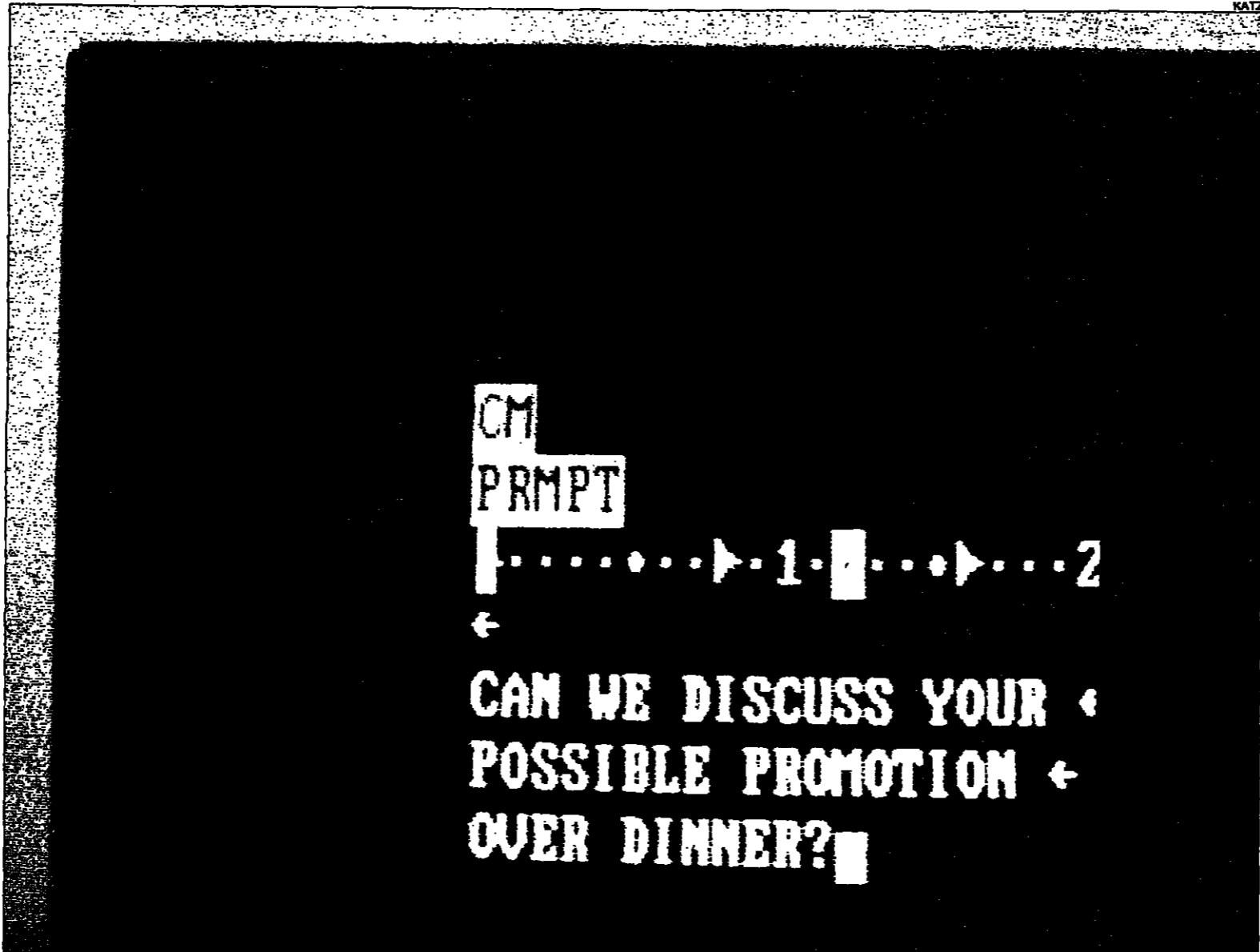
"I was told that the firm only hired women because they were cheap, but there were three problems: women got pregnant, had women's troubles and cried when they had their arses kicked."

On one occasion a senior manager said that Miss Milne was a slut who probably had AIDS. He would blow cigarette smoke in her face and flick sweat at her after he had been to the gym.

Two months later, Miss Milne took Andegauge (who declined to comment to Channel 4) to tribunal. She settled for £6,400. "I would have preferred to have fought the case and won," she says. "But the woman who said she would be my witness dropped out, so in the end it was my word against theirs."

Sexual harassment, according to the Equal Opportunities Commission, is defined as any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature; this can take many forms, including comments about a woman's sex life, or requests or sexual favours.

If sexual harassment makes



Harassment is defined as any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature: would a man suggest discussing promotion over dinner to a male employee?



Four women who have been on the receiving end of unwanted behaviour: Kimberley Copley, Nicky Wicks, Sandra Valentine and Joanne Milne

a person's working life so unbearable that they are forced to leave their job, then they may be able to complain under the Sex Discrimination Act. The first case of sex discrimination in Britain was brought to tribunal ten years ago. Since then, tribunals have heard more than 300 cases, the vast majority brought by women. Many more have been settled out of court.

To date, the highest award for sexual discrimination has

been £34,000. Such sums have prompted sceptics to suggest that the reason more and more women are using the legal system to protest at their treatment has less to do with their suffering and more with the chance to earn a quick buck.

It is a view which angers Karen D'Rozario of the North Kensington Law Centre, who says that most women go to a tribunal only as a last resort. The wait between filing a

complaint and the hearing can be more than two years, and giving evidence can be extremely unpleasant. "I try to be optimistic, but I never leave my clients in any doubt about how difficult it can be. I am not sure I could go through with it myself. You can be torn apart in a courtroom."

Nine out of ten of Ms D'Rozario's clients' claims are settled out of court. "I always try to settle because these cases can be so difficult to prove. Most large companies will go to extraordinary lengths to settle to avoid bad publicity."

To stand a chance of winning a discrimination case, the complainant should keep a diary and tell somebody close,

for most of them I wasn't even asked for an interview. People see my name, remember the case and that's it."

Nicky Wicks was 17 when she was harassed by the manager of Juicyfruits green-grocers in Redditch, where she worked as an assistant. "On a couple of occasions, he pushed me up against the wall and started rubbing himself against me and tried to fondle my breasts. I said 'If you touch me again, I'll slap you,' but he just laughed at me."

Ms Wicks took her boss to tribunal and was awarded damages of £7,000, but she has not worked since. The case has affected her in other ways. "I can't get a boyfriend. I'm scared of what he might do to me. If I'm watching television and something nasty happens to a girl, I freak. When a bloke touches me I go crazy. I used to be outgoing and bouncy, now I only go places with my Mum and Dad."

Kimberley Copley, 30, who worked as a shop

floor manager in a Leeds for another oil company, went to tribunal last year, alleging that her boss had persistently asked her to have an affair with him. She lost her case and is appealing. "It's taken a lot of self confidence away from me, because I thought I was a very strong person," she says. "It's made me very scared to look for another job."

Nonetheless, Ms Wicks has no regrets. "I just don't want to let another girl go through what I had to," she says. Others, however, feel differently. After Ms Valentine agreed a settlement of around £50,000 with Airtours, she said that no amount of money could compensate for what she had been through, and her career was in tatters. "I knew I had to fight this injustice, but frankly... this whole ordeal has ruined my life."

Cutting Edge is at 9pm on Monday January 15

The political handicap of a foreign father

Should Portillo have called himself Blyth, asks Giles Coren

I has not been a good name for poor old Michael Blyth. Only the other day Lord Hill-Norton called him a "little creep", and now Emma Nicholson has branded him a coward. It is back-to-the-wall time, and Blyth is going to have to show a bit of spirit.

That, at least, is how it might have looked if Michael Portillo's mother, and not his father, had been born a Spaniard.

Alas, it was the other way round. But how different things might have been if Michael had been able to thump his tub in front of a banner declaring a name like that. For attacks on a nationalist cut even deeper when the nationalist is Johnny Foreigner.

Disraeli dropped the apostrophe from the insidious French, but still made Prime Minister with a foreign surname, largely by adopting the same tactics as Portillo: sitting on the Tory Right and championing imperialism.

But if Mr Portillo is inclined to dream of what might have been — of the great Michael Blyth who clamped down on immigration and shunned the eu — he might reflect on another famously uncompromising man: Arnold Schwarzenegger. A prospective US senator of blood-curdlingly right-wing convictions, he was advised, early in his career, to change his name. "Don't worry," he told them. "Schwarzenegger will sell."

Whether or not "Portillo" will one day be written in lights, is all about nationalism.



Detractors roll the "r" in Portillo

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When she spoke up she was called a feminist with a chip

Sandra Valentine was the only woman pilot with Airtours International Airline. Last year, her case received wide coverage when she took the company to tribunal, alleging among other things that a captain had apologised to passengers for having a female first officer, saying: "We have them at the front these days, as well as at the back, so don't blame me." Airtours denied all allegations. After settling with Airtours, Ms Valentine said: "I have filled in more than 100 job application forms in the last two years and

INSIDE SECTION 2

Gristly times at the Garden: can the Royal Opera House survive the mounting crisis over its funding and future?

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				£2,500-£9,999	Annually	4.85	3.64
				£100,000 or more	Monthly	5.22**	3.92
				£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.08**	3.81
				£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.94**	3.70
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				£100,000 or more	Annually	6.50	4.87
				£25,000-£99,999	Annually	6.00	4.50
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				£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.46**	4.10
				£100,000 or more	Annually	6.50	4.87
				£25,000-£99,999	Annually	6.00	4.50
				£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.60	4.20
				£100,000 or more	Monthly	6.31**	4.74
				£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.84**	4.38
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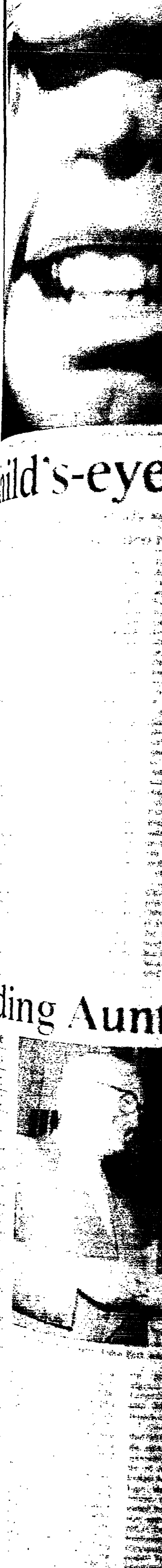
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Fact or fiction: it was speculated that the Bulger killers may have watched *Child's Play 3*, but children found the TV coverage more disturbing

Child's-eye view of horror

A new study suggests that children are not fooled by video nasties, says Alexandra Frean

Concerns about the effects of television on children are a recurrent theme of public debate. Yet it is an area in which children's voices are rarely heard. Too often parental and governmental anxiety has focused on the impact screen violence may have on young viewers' behaviour with little attention paid to children's own emotional responses to the moving image. David Buckingham, a lecturer in media studies at the University of London's Institute of Education, believes a more useful approach to understanding the role of television in children's lives is to ask children about their own responses to horror films, "weeps", soap operas and news bulletins and to discuss with them how they make sense of what they see. Mr Buckingham, a father of two boys aged five and nine, also believes it is important to understand how parents help or hinder their children's understanding of television. In an attempt to throw new light on the issue, Mr Buckingham interviewed 72 children aged six to 15 about their television viewing. The result is a refreshing book, *Moving Images: Understanding Children's Emotional Responses to Television*, which is recommended reading for all media policymakers. The children displayed a sophisticated understanding of many of the conventions of

television. Even the very youngest subjects knew that the families in *The Cosby Show* or *Roseanne* are not "real" and were able to recognise that programmes obeyed certain rules whereby things are played for laughs or conflicts are easily resolved. Yet their interpretation of how realistic such programmes are also depended on how they compared with their own family lives. "A key factor to emerge was the way they reacted differently to fact and fiction," Mr Buckingham says. So much of the debate about television, particularly about the possible imitative effects of screen violence, focuses on fiction, such as horror films and thrillers. Mr Buckingham discovered, however, that news and documentaries often produced more profound reactions. As part of the study he interviewed children who had seen *Child's Play 3*, the "video nasty" which some newspapers speculated may have influenced the child killers of James Bulger in 1993. Many of the children who had watched the 18-rated film appeared to be seasoned horror film viewers who found it "scary" in parts but also enjoyable. Much of their pleasure appeared to come from its jokey attitude to death. The children's reaction to

the media coverage of the Bulger case was quite different. Many said the press and television reports of the case had upset them a great deal; a number said they had cried or had been unable to sleep. In contrast to their view of *Child's Play*, the children repeatedly related the events to their own experience. Many argued, nevertheless, that it was important for the Bulger coverage to be shown, not least as a warning. Mr Buckingham believes these responses raise important issues that media commentators have virtually ignored. If there are questions to be asked about screen violence, perhaps the starting point should be to what extent does news coverage enable children to understand what they are seeing. "Often we see decontextualised images of suffering in the news and it is questionable how far children can understand what they are seeing," he says. One way of helping children to interpret what they see on television would be to integrate it into their education. "Media studies could be part of English lessons. English is the subject in schools that is most concerned with culture, but to narrow culture down to books is unrealistic. To pretend that television is not part

of our culture is not to equip kids to deal with the modern world," he says. Parents also need education, he adds. Schools encourage parents to help their children read at home, Mr Buckingham says, and they should take similar steps to get parents to take part in their children's television viewing. "It is accepted that parents will sit down and read books with their children, not to help them to read, but to talk to them about the stories and about life in general. Similar things could be achieved with television, if only it was given the same status. "There is a lot of cultural snobbery about television. Too often it is treated as a reward, a way of keeping kids quiet or as a focus of family battles over what programmes children should be allowed to watch," Mr Buckingham says. A more positive approach to television, might pay off. "The therapeutic and cathartic experiences of television gained through the vicarious experience of watching somebody else's life, for example, might be more effective if children didn't just watch it but also talked about it with their parents," he says. Regulatory or censorship

bodies, such as the Broadcasting Standards Council and the British Board of Film Classification, could take a lead by producing source material. The explosion of multi-channel television and of new information technology such as video-on-demand and the Internet, will render the current system of censorship through broadcasting regulation and film and video classification totally unworkable. Eventually there will simply be too much material hitting our screens for the regulators to monitor effectively. Improving parents' and children's ability to interpret what they see and to cope with their own emotions about it, will help to empower them to make informed decisions about television on their own behalf. Ultimately, it could be our best hope of enjoying, and retaining some control over, the multi-channel future. *Moving Images is published by Manchester University Press in association with the Broadcasting Standards Council; £14.99 paperback. £40 hardback.

We are our own worst censors

I wondered why I saw so few babies when I was in China in October. Last night's *Return to the Dying Rooms* on Channel 4 helped to explain. The Chinese will undoubtedly be surprised at the bad press they have received for their public relations exercise in rebuttal — a tour of the Shanghai orphanage in question to show foreign journalists how happy, clean and well-treated the waifs there are — and, by logical extension, at all the other institutions for unwanted children throughout their vast country. The Chinese must also be surprised that the British Foreign Office let the programme go out on the very day that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Peking. Surely Channel 4 might have been nudged into delaying it a week? The media are under better control in China.

But are our own dear authorities any less reluctant to docteur the truth in the national interest? Last week, also on Channel 4, *Guardian* journalist Maggie O'Kane suggested that the British and American military were so adept at censorship during the Gulf War that the journalists covering it were "harnessed like 2,000 beach donkeys and led through the sand to see what the British and US military wanted us to see in this nice clean war". Her programme, *Riding the Storm*, upset me. Was it the subtitle, "How to tell lies and win wars", which made it sound as if O'Kane were reporting a great and original discovery — that in war, truth is the first casualty? Or was it her suggestion that the journalists in the Gulf had neither the wit nor the inclination to see through the official line and that we, the viewing public, were duped into believing that the war was a bloodless video game of smart bombs neatly disappearing down empty airshafts? No, I think what really offended me was the assumption that this kind of suppression of information is confined to war. "War is fought in our name," she declared, "and no general or

politician has the right to stop us knowing the truth." How very true, but not only on the battlefield. In our name, to give just one example, pregnant women prisoners have been handcuffed during labour. Thanks only to a smuggled ITN camera was the truth exposed. In her programme, O'Kane produced some disturbing evidence that veterans of the Gulf War are suffering from a variety of severe illnesses caused by chemical weapons. It took four years of battling, she declared, to get the relevant medical evidence logged by the US Defence Department released under the Freedom of Information Act. Only four years? She would have to battle a lot



BRENDA MADDOX

longer to get comparable data out of Whitehall. Rather than labouring the obvious — that people in power, the military especially, are very reluctant to say what they do with it — she would have done better to campaign against Britain's niggardly release of official information of all kinds. According to the Campaign for Freedom of Information, even on matters as mundane as transport it will take the British citizen days to identify and weeks to collect — at prohibitive expense — information which in America can be obtained in hours for a pittance. (A demand for the public to have the right to know what goes on in all government agencies and quangos will be launched next Wednesday by the Campaign, the Guild of Editors, Article 19 and Liberty). Censorship should be deplored, but in all its forms. "Where were the pictures?" O'Kane asked reprovingly, after interviewing Iraqi soldiers who had seen their comrades buried alive by Allied tanks and burnt with napalm. "On the cutting-room floor" is the answer. Nothing to do with official secrecy here. Britain's celebrated television "standards" do not favour pictures of mutilated body parts and bloated corpses. True, we are not shown the human consequences of war. But neither are we shown the human consequences of traffic accidents, in the widely-accepted interests of good taste. And censorship is more widespread than that. We are all censors, a practice which sounds nicer if you call it editing. Any version of events is a matter of selection. We say some of what we know; the rest we hold back in the interests of brevity, clarity or discretion. Journalists above all know this. All practise self-censorship. When in Peking, I heard of aborted human fetuses being sold for soup. I believed it, the Chinese not being conspicuous wasters of protein. But I could not check chapter and verse and the story seemed too sensational — and irrelevant: I write about media, don't I? I have reproached myself ever since. So where does the scorn so liberally heaped by O'Kane in her programme belong? Not on war journalists for lacking courage. Nor on generals who do not spell out in advance their list of targets. It belongs, rather, on all those who take the easy way out. Self-censors such as myself who ignore a story because it is too much trouble. Journalists who huddle together and agree what the story is before writing it. The public for shunning ugly reality on their screens and not pressing harder for official information. One place beyond reproach is the Foreign Office. "You know we would never do that," said its spokesman this week, when I asked whether it had tried to persuade Channel 4 to delay its embarrassing programme until after the Rifkind visit. And I do know that. The BBC's own unpopularity in China is proof enough.

Bidding Auntie farewell

Marmaduke Hussey looks back over ten years as BBC chairman



Corporation men: John Birt, left, Director-General, and Marmaduke Hussey

In 1986 serious questions were being asked about the future of the BBC and the retention of its licence fee for the first time in its history. Major and public schisms emerging between the Governors and the management were apparent. Public confidence in the quality of our programmes was rattled by a series of setbacks, some of them in the courts. The atmosphere in the BBC itself reflected this. I found an organisation apprehensive, puzzled, hurt by public criticism, strangely isolated from the real world, but still held together by a rich vein of dedicated talent. In my first week I decided that the BBC would have to fight very hard to preserve its privileged position, so my long-term objective could only be to deliver a BBC worthy to secure the new Charter without losing its main services and with continued public funding. That has been the single and sole motivation behind the policies that the governors have initiated and followed, and the appointments they have made. In 1996 the position looks totally different. The position of the governors has been clarified and codified; they meet with management as joint boards to discuss major issues of policy and strategy; modern methods of management have been introduced of only in this country but throughout the world. Major investments have been made in news and docu-

mentary programmes; dramas such as *Frieda* and *Prejudice* demonstrate that the BBC remains the world's top provider of quality programmes. Our role as a standard-setter, with emphasis on quality and choice, is now accepted as a justification for the privilege of a universal licence fee. The World Service, always one of our great strengths, is regarded as the world's leading international broadcaster. Recently we have started *Worldwide Television*, and aim to be a major force in world broadcasting. In sharp contrast to the rest of the television industry, the BBC is now a net exporter for Britain. The Charter that now lies before Parliament confirms this new confidence, with our services and funding unchanged. It has not been an easy road and the changes urged on the management by

the governors have been effected by two able Directors-General, Michael Checkland and John Birt, and their boards of management. I come from a generation that believes the BBC is one of the most important and responsible threads in the tapestry of our national life. We looked to the BBC always for high standards. It was, of course, a monopoly. When I joined from outside in 1986 it was apparent to me, though not to the BBC itself, that the increasing power of radio, television, satellite and cable posed huge threats to an organisation which is not just an important purveyor of programmes but is a major national and international asset. It is also the greatest cultural organisation in the world, not just in the United Kingdom. It has been a privilege to be

one of many people helping to secure the future of this world-class institution. I believed fervently in the BBC and its qualities before I joined, and I believe as fervently in them today. But fresh challenges await, primarily to carve out a place in the new broadcasting scene and particularly to maintain and inspire the confidence and enthusiasm of a dedicated, brilliant staff, for whom I have the greatest admiration and affection. They, after all, are the BBC. New challenges need new leaders and in February 1994 I told the Prime Minister that I would wish to retire when the Charter was agreed, and confirmed this decision with him in June 1995. So I leave the BBC in sound health with many happy memories, many friends, and waves of goodwill to the Corporation and its talented new chairman.

THE TIMES

ELIZABETH
BIOGRAPHY OF
THE MAJESTY THE QUEEN
SARAH BRADFORD

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MORE REVEALING PORTRAIT.

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CHANGING TIMES

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سكنا من الاصل

NEWS

Thatcher warns against lurch to left

Baroness Thatcher will tomorrow enter the battle over the Conservative Party's future with a warning that it cannot win by "lurching to the left".

Rebel holds 2,000 hostage in hospital

A Chechen fighter calling himself the "Lone Wolf" held about 2,000 people inside a hospital in the North Caucasian town of Kizlyar.

New BBC chairman

Sir Christopher Bland, the Tory millionaire and former chairman of London Weekend Television, was named as the BBC's new chairman.

Alzheimer study

Smoking and drinking may hasten the onset of Alzheimer's disease in some patients.

Sotheby inquiry

Sotheby's is carrying out an investigation into the £105,000 sale of a Baroque casket after a number of experts expressed concern that it was a fake.

Pop art

A mysterious bout of nostalgia for fading pop icons has gripped a hamlet and transformed it into a place of pilgrimage.

Gold smuggling case

A policewoman allegedly told her boyfriend that she was part of a £20 million gold smuggling operation.

Protest victory

Preparation work for the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the day after protesters blockaded 400 security guards into their farmyard base.

£100,000 a year men

More than 250 consultants have broken through the £100,000-a-year pay barrier in the NHS.

A fish called Zander under fire

Zander, a voracious fish terrorising canals, may shortly meet its match by being eaten with chips.



Emma Nicholson with some her new Liberal Democrat colleagues at the House of Commons yesterday.

BUSINESS

Forté: The City believes that Granada's fresh offer for Forté, which adds a 47p share special dividend, gives it a reasonable chance of victory.

Brands: Officials from the Serious Fraud Office may visit Singapore again after being offered access to vital papers relating to the collapse of Barings Futures.

House of Fraser: The group that includes Army & Navy and Dickens & Jones, suffered the ignominy of City analysts cutting their profit forecasts for the fourth time in less than two years.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 20.3 to 3700.3. Sterling's index fell from 83.4 to 83.3 after a fall from \$1.5495 to \$1.5457 and from DM2.2324 to DM2.2304.

SPORT

Football: Roger Stanislav, of Leyton Orient, became the first English player to test positive for a performance-enhancing drug after a game.

Rugby union: Wales selected five newcomers - the youngest, Leigh Davies, 19 - for the match against Italy in Cardiff.

Tennis: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski gave British tennis a fillip in the build-up to the Australian Open with unexpected first-round victories at a tournament in Sydney.

Olympic Games: Proposals are under discussion to stage the Games of 2008 in Hyde Park, London, or in Dublin.

ARTS

Garden in disarray: The Royal Opera House, about to be the subject of a "fly-on-the-wall" BBC documentary series, is fighting for its life.

Mime time: London is preparing to welcome companies from around the world for an international mime festival.

On stage: Favorite Nation, at the Lyric Hammersmith, uncovers the strange personal lives of the group that founded the National Trust.

Such a sad Lake: Uncharismatic principals hampered the English National Ballet's revival of Swan Lake at the Festival Hall this week.

FEATURES

Ageless ageing, day 3: The elixir of life: sex in the middle years: thanks for the memory: keeping your eye on the ball.

Indecent proposals: What are the prospects for a woman who sues over sexual harassment? ... Page 15

FASHION

Wool mix and match: What could be more useful than a camel V-neck sweater or grey polo-neck? Iain R. Webb on bargains.

MOVIES

Gazumpers locked out: Smart buyers have found a way to avoid a traditional peril.

TELEVISION

Child's play: Children as young as six have been examined to see if they can tell the difference between fiction and reality in video nasties and the news.

THE PAPERS

It is a bit of an image problem for Mr Branson. Up in the sky he's one of those magnificent men in their flying machines. Down on the ground, he's a sore loser, complaining about the rules.



Geoff Brown and Julian Barnes.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Basest instinct: Geoff Brown on the sorry saga of Showgirls. BOOKS: Julian Barnes's Cross Channel, linked tales with a French theme.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,060

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

Answers to crossword puzzle: Across: 1 Brave exploit granted lines in epic verse (6,7); 2 These mountains make one dizzy (5); 3 Unimportant stuff after one gets married (10); 4 Moderately revolutionary new play (7); 5 Wild man - due to incomplete evolution (7); 6 Part of fingerprint found - the game's up! (4); 7 Cutting short tendency to sing (9); 8 Crusade leader with model servant once (8,6); 14 Appropriate point accepted by leader (10); 16 Get note from old doctor to obtain old drink (9); 19 Temporarily worn, being fired going out and about (5,2); 20 Groom, taught to embroider (5,2); 24 Empty watercourse (5); 25 Examination in United States (4).

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Weather forecast for various regions including London, SE England, and Channel Isles.

AA ROADWATCH

AA Roadwatch information for various roads including London & SE, M25, and M4.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

Flight times to Paris, Hamburg, and London.

FORECAST

Forecast for NW England, NE England, Central Highlands, and Channel Isles.

AROUND BRITAIN

Forecast for various locations around Britain including Aberdeen, Liverpool, and London.

ABROAD

Forecast for various international locations including Alcala, Athens, and Berlin.

NOON TIDES

Noon tide chart showing tide levels for various locations.

HIGH TIDES

High tide chart showing tide levels for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Hours of darkness chart showing sunrise and sunset times.

Large advertisement for Granad back v £3.8bn, featuring a portrait of a man and promotional text.

ARTS 33-35



Happy days aren't here again at the Royal Opera House

PROPERTY 36



Retail is heading a recovery in the commercial sector

SPORT 43-48



Young blood leads Wales into new era

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 1996

Granada hits back with £3.8bn bid

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA punched back yesterday with a revised offer for Forte that the City predicts will give it a better than even chance of winning the hotels and restaurants group.

Granada's final offer values Forte at £3.8 billion, about £500 million more than its opening bid in November. The basic offer remains unchanged, but the company added a special cash dividend of 47p net per share that will come out of Forte's financial resources if the bid succeeds.

received a "high level of interest" from potential buyers. He would not identify them. Analysts stopped short of calling the bid a knock-out blow but gave it a good chance of success. Ron Littleboy, of Nomura, said: "It looks likely that they've got it. This makes things difficult for Forte."



Charles Allen, left, and Gerry Robinson of Granada



Pamela Wilson, 29, a senior avionic systems engineer with British Aerospace's military aircraft division at Warton Aerodrome in Preston, Lancashire, was named young woman engineer of the year yesterday. She was a runner-up in 1992.

Analysts cut HoF forecasts again

By SARAH BAGNALL

HOUSE OF FRASER, the department store group that includes Army & Navy and Dickens & Jones, yesterday suffered the ignominy of City analysts cutting their profit forecasts for the fourth time in less than two years.

In a repeat performance of last year, HoF warned investors that pre-tax profits for the year to January 27 would be "well below market estimates".

The retailer blamed a less profitable sales mix, together with the need for markdowns. The news prompted analysts to cut their profit forecasts from about £25 million to £13 million-£15 million. This compares with a pre-tax profit of £28 million last time. House of Fraser shares slid 13p in early trading, but recovered to end 3p down at 163p.

The company said sales had been strong in the week immediately before Christmas, with a like-for-like advance of 8.5 per cent. In the first week of the January sales the increase was 4.9 per cent. However, the increases failed to make up for the lacklustre performance during the rest of the year and as a result, like-for-like sales in the first 22 weeks of the second half rose just 2.3 per cent.

The amount of profit HoF made on each sale fell because of an increase in concession sales, which are lower-margin, and flat sales of its own bought products. There was also the added impact of lower sales of higher-margin lines, such as ladieswear and homeware, together with the need to mark down stock.

HoF said: "In the full year it is expected that the 1.6 per cent reduction in gross profit margin will alone cost the group £2.5 million." Similar markdowns are not expected during 1996. The board intends to maintain the final dividend at 5.5p.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with 3 columns: Index, Value, Change. Includes FT-SE 100, DAX, Nikkei, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Index, Value, Change. Includes 3-month Interbank, 6-month, 9-month.

Table with 3 columns: Index, Value, Change. Includes New York, London, Yen, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Index, Value, Change. Includes London, Yen, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Index, Value, Change. Includes Brent 15-day, etc.

London close: \$394.43 (\$398.50) * denotes midday trading price

Power jobs

National Power yesterday added to the huge jobs rout in the electricity industry when the generator, which has cut its workforce by more than 11,000, to 5,000, since privatisation, said 400 more staff were to go. Since the electricity industry was sold into the private sector, more than 42,000 jobs have gone. Page 27, Tempus 28

Merger blocked

The Government yesterday blocked the planned merger of Belfast's two airports on the grounds that it would lead to higher airport charges and fares. Page 30

Car pay deals 'not inflation threat'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FEARS for inflation from high pay settlements - especially by the Ford motor company - expressed by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, are unlikely to be realised, an independent pay research group said yesterday.

The two unions are also balloting on industrial action over Ford's two-year pay offer for a rise of 4.75 per cent now, followed by an inflation-plus rise next year.

Eurotunnel shares at new low

By ROBERT MILLER

SENIOR officials from the Serious Fraud Office may visit Singapore again after being offered access to vital papers relating to the collapse of Barings Futures (Singapore), the company at the centre of the merchant bank's £960 million failure.

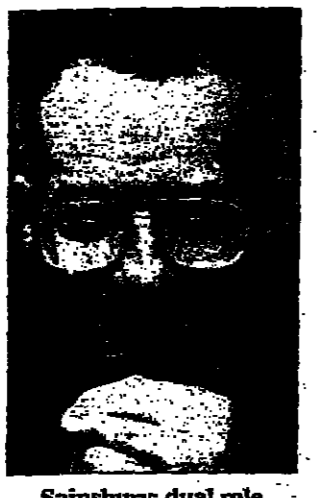
Barings' papers offer to SFO

By ROBERT MILLER

was substantial new evidence to be uncovered that might lead to a prosecution in Britain. Meanwhile, the investigation into the role of 12 former senior executives in the Barings crash by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures traders, is now complete but for "crossing the ls and dotting the Ts".

Sainsbury to unveil top-level changes

By SARAH BAGNALL



J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group, is set to unveil high-level management changes today. City analysts expect the changes to involve David Sainsbury, who holds the dual role of chairman and chief executive, announcing his intention to relinquish the latter post.

rather than trading. Asked whether the changes were at the top, the spokesman said: "I don't think we would be making an announcement if we were just hiring six more checkout girls at our Camden store."

of succession. Sainsbury's management has been criticised in recent months as the retailer has been seen to be the loser in the supermarket groups' battle for market share.

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503 من الامم

□ Forte's fate in the balance □ The mysteries of the weekly shopping basket □ A novel approach to policing directors

Granada's Golden Shot

□ GRANADA has roped in a little financial help to fund its latest onslaught on Forte, and the mystery benefactor is you and me. Gerry Robinson has been able to sweeten his higher offer to the tune of 12p a share in tax breaks for those City institutions that can reclaim the tax credit on the special dividend.

As most of Forte's shares are held by such institutions, this is equivalent to a £100 million-plus rise in the value of the bid, paid for out of the public purse. Such special dividends were yearly-regularly common in the space of utilities bids last year, and one had hoped they would have been ruled out of court in the Budget. Action in due course, please, from whichever government.

Granada has fired its higher shot with extraordinary skill. As well as the tax advantages, the bolting on to the existing terms of a 47p special dividend to be paid out of Forte's coffers has avoided the need to underwrite this £450 million addition to its offer. So much for dark mutterings that the group's shareholders would not support an increased bid and that the financiers would not take the strain.

ready quite substantial borrowings. These would then amount to some £3.5 billion, by most reckonings, once the deal is done with an eventual — note, eventual — fall to £2.9 billion after the end of non-performing assets such as the Savoy stake.

Granada then hopes to raise £1.6 billion, the book value of the luxury hotels within Forte, by selling them. This is where the faith comes in. If those disposals do not take place — a well-placed bomb, God forbid, and a collapse in the London tourist trade, for example? — Granada is stuck with this debt until the market recovers.

If the hotels and all else can be sold, gearing returns to a more normal 70 per cent, improving to 50 per cent on revaluation of the BSkyB stake, now in the books at about £500 million less than it is worth. More importantly, interest cover is a healthy eight times profits.

Mr Robinson has sighted his offer well within the 360p to 380p killing ground where the fate of Forte will be settled. He would never pay more, and shareholders

would not accept less. The Council of Forte has been squared with £50 million towards its good cause and a nebulous future role in the furtherance of temperance, for goodness sake.

It is down to a choice between managements. Most shareholders prefer a tightly-focused leisure group run by one of the most respected managements in the country? On balance, but only on balance, the City is inclined to think Granada will succeed at this level. But there is a fortnight of play still to come.

Breaking down the food chain

□ HERE is an odd paradox: Britain has the most viciously competitive food retailing sector in the world, where the big chains can only stay afloat by constant product innovation and a close watch on the prices their rivals are charging.

Why, therefore, do British grocers earn margins on average



four times higher than their Continental or American counterparts enjoy? And why are British shoppers happy to pay such prices?

The question has added relevance on the day that Sainsbury's has accepted the inevitability of some changes to its board, which has by tradition been dominated by people called Sainsbury. The supermarkets group was once the ne plus ultra of food retailing; now, so tough has been the competition and so rapid its fall that a sadder and a howl to City pressure.

The industry would have it that change has come about from loyalty cards, selective price-cutting and various other perks

all of which conspire to reduce the cost of everyone's weekly grocery basket — only yesterday. Asda widened its money-off vouchers scheme. In a low-inflation environment, with shoppers accustomed to a static weekly bill, that is about the only way the supermarkets can make progress against each other.

The resolution of the paradox is twofold. One, the band of grocers that controls three fifths of all food sales is a disguised cartel. Each strives to ensure its prices are not undercut by the others, but such vigilance works both ways, by setting a baseline below which prices need not be cut further.

Two, high margins are the reward of the efficient. British supermarkets earn more, for every pound spent at the till, than their overseas equivalents because they buy in better, manage their shops better and produce higher-margin prepared products that shoppers are happy to pay over the odds for.

There is little in foreign supermarkets like the range of chilled foods available at even those British grocers perceived as

down-market — let alone the sort of goods Marks & Spencer can sell, and the sort of margins they can achieve on them.

Simpler fraud trials by a technicality

□ MANY suspected frauds go unprosecuted because it is often so complex and costly to prove common law charges that failure beckons for the police and the Serious Fraud Office. Chartered accountants have, for once, come up with a blindingly simple answer that would cover many of the more complex cases. Why not rely on a technical charge available under company law: deceiving the auditor. Fraudsters rarely announce their fraud in the company's accounts.

Proving deception is more black and white than the shades of grey that appear when financial wrong-doing is defined as, say, theft. If directors tell the auditor one thing when the truth turns out to be different, legal argument might often be more about seriousness or mitigation than guilt or innocence.

All that is needed, according to the ICAEW's auditing sentence, is to raise the maximum sentence from two to five years and to widen the coverage to anyone on the payroll. Perhaps. But is that five-year maximum really necessary? Most of the frauds concerned, as opposed to the theft of public funds, would be adequately punished by two years at Her Majesty's taxpayers' expense. Few serve so long in reality. But if five years would persuade macho prosecuting folk to make more use of this law, the sooner Michael Howard waves his stick the better.

More or less

□ GERRY ROBINSON of Granada is, of course, well known for his contention that when it comes to hours worked, less is more — although it is not clear how far down the Granada organisation his attitude is allowed to extend. Prue Leith has now pointed out that the overwork culture creates the "glass ceiling", holding women back by discriminating against those on whom the heaviest burden of childcare falls. Sadly, this would seem to give male-dominated managements every reason to perpetuate it. But one day the 1990s cut of overwork will be viewed as we now view Victorian child labour: a cultural aberration from a less civilised time.

National Power cuts its workforce by another 400



John Baker of National Power, where more jobs have gone

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
NATIONAL POWER yesterday added to the huge jobs cut in the electricity industry when it announced that it was cutting its workforce by more than 1,000 to 5,000 since privatisation, said 400 more positions were to go.

Since the electricity industry was sold into the private sector more than 42,000 jobs have been lost with the total set to reach 43,000 by the end of March when redundancies for PowerGen are expected to come through in an end of the financial year round-up.

City expectations pitch the losses at PowerGen at 7,000 taking its staff down to 3,000 from a pre-privatisation total of 10,000.

Labour repeated its condemnation of the job cuts in utilities and claimed that more than £49 million had been lost in taxes and other benefits from the staff reduction of National Power.

National Power said that along with the job reductions it expected to make cost savings of £100 million over the next two years. Staff cuts will form only a modest part of this with the majority of the savings coming from getting rid of non-power station activities. It will reduce its use of consultants and advisors and other ancillary services. The company did not rule out compulsory redundancies in the across-the-board sweep at its Swindon headquarters.

However, it said it hoped that sufficient volunteers would come forward. Senior

Trump to up stake in casino

By RICHARD THOMSON

DONALD TRUMP, the controversial American property tycoon, is buying back full control of the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, three years after he was forced to sell half of his share in it to prop up his failing business empire. The move is a further step in the recovery of his business fortunes.

Mr Trump was forced on to the defensive when the recession caused rents and property values to slump at the end of the 1980s. Now, Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts, in which he has a 40 per cent stake, is issuing \$140 million of new shares, while a separate funding vehicle is issuing \$750 million in new bonds. The proceeds will be used to buy out the Taj Mahal's other shareholders.

Rhône-Poulenc lowers year's profit estimates

By GEORGE SIVELL

RHÔNE-POULENC, the French chemicals and pharmaceutical group, revealed yesterday that it was now expecting lower 1995 profits than forecast earlier. The move sent the shares down Fr3.20 to Fr103.80.

During 1995 Rhône-Poulenc said it expected a significant rise and had even talked of double-digit growth before trimming that back in the autumn to a noticeable improvement. Full results are due from the group on January 31.

Rhône, which now owns Fisons, the British pharmaceutical group through the Rhône-Poulenc Rorer operation, said yesterday: "Based on the first indications of activities in the fourth quarter, and without taking account of possible effects of the Fisons integration, the group is now expecting lower results than previously forecast."

Tempus, page 28

American expansion for Biocompatibles

By PHILIP FANGALOS

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the medical coatings and materials company which floated in April, is expanding overseas through an American acquisition for a total of up to \$21 million.

Biocompatibles is buying Atlanta Catheter Company, the California group that develops products for the balloon angioplasty market, for \$17.5 million in shares, with further payments of up to \$3.5 million depending on performance.

Angioplasty is the surgical procedure used in connection with high blood pressure, whereby balloon catheters and stents are passed through,

Brackenbridge rescue embraces new name

By PHILIP FANGALOS

BRACKENBRIDGE, the bridalwear and formal clothes group formerly known as Cupid, has unveiled a long-awaited rescue plan comprising new chief executive, an acquisition, a placing and open offer, a debt conversion and another name change.

Brackenbridge, which owns Pronuptia bridalwear and Youngs formal wear, has acquired Langside fibre, a men's formal wear company for £525,000 in cash and shares. The enlarged group's name will become Formal Group.

Charles Brine, Langside's managing director and majority shareholder, will become

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TSB takeover puts Visa in a spot



By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

VISA's European board is in a quandry. After the takeover of TSB by Lloyds Bank last year, two of its members, including its chairman, represent the same bank.

Peter Ellwood was elected by Visa member banks as part-time chairman of the Visa International and of the Visa European Union boards in June 1994, when he was chief executive of TSB. He is the only one of the four representatives of UK banks on the Visa EU board who represents the interests of smaller banks. As deputy chief executive of the new Lloyds TSB,

this is no longer something he could claim to do. The other UK members of the Visa EU board are Gerald Hawkins, general manager of payment services at Lloyds TSB, Bob Potts, chief executive of Barclayscard, and Trevor Blackler, chief executive of group services at NatWest. Normally there cannot be two representatives on its board from one bank.

He said: "Possibly we could have two people from one organisation. It will depend on whether the organisation is formed as a result of a merger or a transfer of assets and on the size of it and a number of other legal bits and pieces."

Lloyds TSB said: "They are aware that they need to talk about it and they are talking about it."

loser links expected n defence industry
 Stake-up planned
 Acquisition
 Share to stand down
 Trade returns for Burn
 TIME

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares cool fast on Tory fears and US blizzards

WORRIED about another Conservative deflection and the worsening weather conditions in America cut short another record breaking-run by the London stock market.



P&O shares slid as more people said farewell to ferries at the next election.

The FT-SE 100 index, after hitting a new all-time trading high of 3,728.6, went into reverse to end the session 20.3 down at 3,703.3. Last night there were signs of futures-related selling that was threatening to erode the healthy premium built up between the future and the cash market in recent weeks.

Early trading had been bolstered by the higher offer for Forte. But this proved short-lived with the news that Peter Thurnham, MP for Bolton North East, was considering standing as an independent after his seat disappears at the next election.

Meanwhile, New York remained in the grip of one of the worst blizzards for years with the forecast of more to come. Renewed worries about the US Federal Budget saw the Dow Jones industrial average quickly wiped out and that took its toll on London.

That increased offer from Granada for Forte came as no surprise to brokers with the new terms valuing the bid at £3.8 billion. Granada is now offering four shares and £23.25 in cash for every 15 Forte shares. It raises the value of the offer from 328p a share to 373p with a cash alternative of 362p. There is also a 47p cash sweeter thrown in for Forte shareholders if they accept the bid.

But in spite of the increased terms Forte could only muster a rise of 7p to 351p, as it continued to urge shareholders to reject the offer, which it said undervalued the group. Granada's Gerry Robinson countered Forte by accusing its management of mortgaging the future in order to create an appearance of value.

Last night the bid was finely pitched with few brokers willing to predict the outcome. Granada retreated 6p to 637p. Whitbread fell 17p to 681p. It has agreed to buy Forte's roadside interests, including Travelodge, Welcome Break and Happy Eater, for a total of £1.5 billion. The price was further depressed by a line of 1 million shares on offer at a discount to the market price.

A late story sweeping the market suggested Eurotunnel was about to call in the receivers, though the story was treated with scepticism by brokers generally. It followed claims that a consortium of Japanese banks holding the bulk of the loans outstanding to Eurotunnel had become impatient and were ready to pull the rug. The shares hit an all-time low of 77p, off 7p.

But the battle for control of the Channel continues to hot receivers, though the story was treated with scepticism by brokers generally. It followed claims that a consortium of Japanese banks holding the bulk of the loans outstanding to Eurotunnel had become impatient and were ready to pull the rug.

180p in April, 1994. The latest profits warning will be bad news for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, the group's biggest shareholder, which has 26.1 per cent. Brokers responded by cutting their estimates of £25 million. This compares with last year's £28 million.

Brokers said it reflected this week's £4.5 billion acquisition by Lockheed Martin of Loral Corporation in the US. Brokers are also hoping to hear details soon of the Orange telecom flotation. Orange is jointly owned by Hutchison Whampoa and BAE.

The stores sector, which has been enjoying something of a revival cheered by news of the transport operator, jumped 22p to 388p after a visit to the company by brokers.

National Express, the transport operator, jumped 22p to 388p after a visit to the company by brokers. Management Oil & Gas jumped 3p to 61p as almost 10 million shares changed hands. It seems that the big seller that has overshadowed the shares recently has now withdrawn.

SkyPharma, the subject of a recent takeover of Black & Edgington, the old marquee supplier, made its debut on AIM after a rights issue at 4p. Shares in the ordinary opened at 7p before closing at 8p. SkyPharma is headed by Ian Gowrie-Smith, former head and founder of Medeva. He is expected to use SkyPharma as a vehicle to make acquisitions in the pharmaceutical market.

Brokers said it reflected this week's £4.5 billion acquisition by Lockheed Martin of Loral Corporation in the US. Brokers are also hoping to hear details soon of the Orange telecom flotation.

One of the heaviest traded companies was British Gas, up 3 1/2p to 261p, as almost 20 million shares changed hands. Once again there is talk of a bid from Shell. After last year's £9 billion bid by Glaxo for Wellcome, brokers say anything is possible. A merger would create a group with a stock market value of £42 billion.

up, P&O fell 8p to 475p after revealing cross-Channel traffic fell sharply last year. Tourist vehicles were down 7 per cent at just above 2.5 million, while passenger and freight-vehicle volumes also fell. It follows a similar announcement by Stena about nursing a loss of 3p at 103p.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major stock indices from New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average, TOPIX), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (BOE Index), Sydney (ASX 200), Frankfurt (DAX), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (General), Paris (CAC-40), Zurich (SIX Gen), London (FT 100, FTSE 100, FTSE-MID 250, FTSE-A 300, FTSE-Eurofirst 100, FT All-Share, FT New Financials, FT FTI Index, FT Comd Secs), Barings (SEAQ Volume, USM (Distress), USA, German Mark, Exchange Index, Bank of England official close (Mps), GSCI, LSE, LSE: DSE, LSE: RPI, LSE: RPI: 1993 Nov 3.1% Jan 1997-100, LSE: RPI: 1993 Nov 3.1% Jan 1997-100, LSE: RPI: 1993 Nov 3.1% Jan 1997-100).

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent stock issues with columns for Cash Conv Int, Centry Inns, Com of Part Fin, Cox Insurance, Crown Products, Dmasek, Finbury Tech, Gearhouse Gp, Jupiter Split Cap, Jupiter Split Inc, Jupiter Split Uts, Mann & Orscas, National Grid, Northern Petroleum, Nithon Petrol, Polymase Pharms, Revelation Plcc, Rushmere Wynne, SkyPharma, Unicorn Int, VICTEX, Viewfin.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues for Ransomes n/p (40), SWP Group n/p (2), Sealife Res n/p (65), SkyPharma n/p (4), Sutcliffe Spk n/p (25), Westbury n/p (150).

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major stock price changes with columns for BRISSE (British Dredging, Thomsons, Antours, Mittel, Eye Group, Vektor, Micro Focus), FALLS (Bentley Int, Treat, Inshape, GRE, REXAM, Wolsley, Whitbread, Azian), and Closing Prices Page 31.

TEMPUS

Stored up problems

HOUSE OF FRASER's life has been short and far from sweet. In two years it has suffered four profits downgrades by brokers. More than 100,000 small investors bought the shares at 180p when HOF floated off in April 1994, compared with yesterday's 161p.

The group had a lousy 1995 and although Christmas trading was respectable, it failed to provide a tonic to prop up profits. Second half like-for-like sales rose 2.3 per cent but margins slipped because of a less profitable sales mix and the need - again - for aggressive markdowns. Stock problems are not new at HOF and again it was forced to cut prices to shift old merchandise and ensure current stock moves from shelf to shopping bag.

Managing its stock problems more effectively is a start to the recovery process, but avoiding the problem in the first place is the real issue. The arrival in November of Rebecca Sharp as merchandising director may prove the answer, but any beneficial impact is unlikely to be felt before the autumn. Another problem is the sales mix. Lower-margin concession sales have risen, while sales of higher-margin ladieswear and homeware have fallen.

The group has suffered from years of under-investment and the current refurbishment programme - a hefty £50 million - does not appear to be producing an adequate return. It is in its early days, however.

NATIONAL POWER

SHAREHOLDERS OF National Power are laughing.

Only last month, £260 million was tossed back at them through a share buy-back. Now they hear another £100 million in costs is to be surgically removed from the company over the next two years.

Under competition requirements, National Power is about to lose 25 per cent of its output but the cost reductions are being met not by cutting back on power stations, but by cutting costs as part of alternative expansion.

While it twiddles its thumbs waiting for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to decide whether or not to allow its bid for the regional electricity company

CHEMICALS

EVER in search of clues on how the economic cycle will fare in the new year, your columnist spotted two straws blowing in yesterday's breezes from two chemicals monoliths: Rhone-Poulenc, of France, and Alko Nobel, of The Netherlands.

Rhone-Poulenc is bidding to buy a stake in the company's own share price by warning again that last year's optimistic forecast of double-digit growth in 1995 had been overdone. This comes after a downgrading to a forecast of a "noticeable improvement" in the autumn.

At the peak, the markets expected Rhone-Poulenc to make Fr3 billion in 1995, but after yesterday's statement this had become Fr2 billion, barely a noticeable improvement at all on the Fr1.9 billion made in 1994. It should be remembered that at the end of the third-quarter stage Rhone was up 71 per cent to Fr1.96 billion.

EUROTUNNEL

THE fall in Eurotunnel units of 6p yesterday, to 77p, a fresh low, heralds today's announcement by Sir Alastair Morton in Calais of 1995 passenger figures and freight volumes. The value of Eurotunnel's massive debts has tumbled little better than the stock. The debt has changed hands on the market at a mere 37p in the round.

Such are the tunnel's prospects and finances that you could buy all £8 billion of debt for a mere £2.96 billion. Ever the competitive ones, P&O and Stena, the rival ferry operators left in ahead yesterday. Stena reckons it is 6 per cent down on passengers and freight over the previous year, when the tunnel was barely operational. But in what sounds like bad news for Eurotunnel, P&O reckons it was down 7 per cent on tourist vehicles, just 5 per cent down on passenger vehicles and 0.7 per cent down in the all-important freight market. The total cross-Channel market is reckoned to have increased by 20 or 25 per cent because of the tunnel's opening.

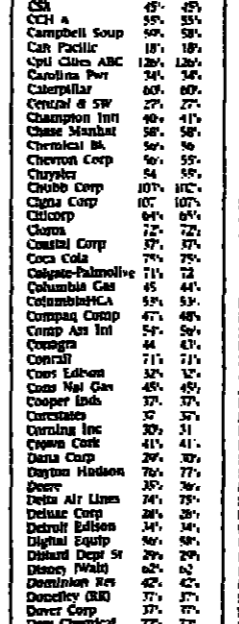


Table of LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE with columns for Commodity, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

Table of ROBUSTA COFFEE B with columns for Month, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

Table of WHITE SUGAR (B) with columns for Month, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

Table of MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION with columns for Commodity, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

COMMODITIES

Table of CRUDE OILS (Barrel) with columns for Month, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

Table of PRODUCTS (SMT) with columns for Commodity, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

Table of LONDON METAL EXCHANGE with columns for Commodity, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, Three Mth Eurodollar, Three Mth Euro DM, Long Gilt, German Govt Bd Bond, Japanese Govnt Bond, Three Month ECU, Euro Swiss Franc, Italian Govnt Bond.

Table of MONEY RATES (%) with columns for Term, Rate, and Week fixed vs.

Table of EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) with columns for Currency, Term, Rate, and Call.

Table of GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co) with columns for Commodity, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices with columns for Company, Bid, Offer, and Volume.

Table of FT-SE VOLUMES with columns for Index, Volume, and Change.

Table of Sterling Spot and Forward Rates with columns for Term, Rate, and Premium/Discount.

Equities fail to keep early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for BANKS, DISTRIBUTORS, BREWERIES, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, BUILDING MATERIALS, BUSINESS SERVICES, CHEMICALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, OTHER FINANCIAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for MINING, OIL & GAS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, TRANSPORT, WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for SPIRITS, WINES & CIGARS, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Share Price, Dividend Yield, P/E Ratio, % Change, Company Name. Includes sections for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED.

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سازمان الاصل

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and percentage change. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

Advertisement for Deutsche Telekom London, featuring the text 'Just what is the best way to deal with Germany?' and 'We know how 0800 137 729'. Includes the Deutsche Telekom logo and a note: 'VoiceKonnect is the direct dealer-broker voice link.'

Continuation of unit trust price data, listing various fund names and their corresponding prices and percentage changes.



OPERA Covent Garden under TV scrutiny and under the lash: can Jeremy Isaacs steer round the wreckage?



DANCE Hampered by underpowered principals, ENB gives a limp account of Swan Lake

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 1 The raddled founders of the National Trust are laid bare in Fav'rite Nation at the Lyric



THEATRE 2 ... while Damn Yankees, with its Faustian pacts on the baseball field, is barely revived at the Bridewell

The Royal Opera House, soon to be laid bare on BBC TV, is fighting for its future, says Rodney Milnes

Will the Garden ever bloom again?

A six-part series about the Royal Opera House starting on BBC2 next Tuesday... and it is essential viewing both as a brilliant piece of documentary film-making and for the insights it provides into a much misunderstood institution...



Happier times: the Royal Opera House's director, Jeremy Isaacs, and chairman, Sir Angus Stirling, celebrate Covent Garden's successful bid for lottery money last July

There's the scene painter dispensing eternal verities while slapping paint on an Aida backdrop. There's the Australian stagehand, the only female in the crew, telling us what she has to put up with. There's the chairman, Sir Angus Stirling, who traditionally comes on as Mr Nice Guy...

There is some telling cross-cutting. Sackings are agreed while Carmen is stabbed on stage. A black family from south London attending a Hamlyn week reduced-price performance is spectacularly misdirected to cheap gallery slips by tuff-nosed ushers...

There is much doubt as to whether this exposure will help or harm the Opera House. Truth, surely, can only help. The public perception is probably of an organisation idly sitting around deciding how much to pay Pavarotti...

It is an Arts Council apparatchik who suggests closure? here are chilling — an Arts Council enter into it. It is an Arts Council apparatchik who, with barely concealed glee, raises the idea of shutting down the opera and ballet during the three-year closure for redevelopment...

Management, in this case Cooper, announces the slashing of productions and 10 per cent redundancies, with his own wholly redundant job presumably not at the top of the hit-list. Isaacs goes next year, so does Hailtink, the brightest jewel in the ROH crown...

If the companies ceased operation for three years, the Royal Ballet dancers would find other jobs and the company simply disappear, and with it 70 years of proud endeavour. Hailtink's orchestra and chorus would vanish. It might be possible after three years' closure to reconstruct some sort of artistically negligible Royal Opera engaging whichever of the three tenors can still sing...

DANCE

Stars lack sparkle

ENGLISH National Ballet's Swan Lake is not a bad production. It comes from good stock — early 20th-century Bolshoi — and carries attractive, if rather ecclesiastical, designs from Carl Tomm. It also has some lovely work for the ensemble in Act IV...

Swan Lake Festival Hall

case. The Act II pas de deux — a sublime encounter — was instead one of the evening's low points, passing pleasantly before our eyes with none of the urgency and discovery that such a coupling would suggest.

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a patchy tribute to the National Trust and a foul ball of a baseball musical

No thanks for this memory

Fav'rite Nation Lyric Studio, W6 Octavia Hill, whose heart belongs to the ageing John Ruskin, who in turn rejects her for the still younger Rose La Touche. For reasons that are never clear, Rose called the art critic and social reformer 'St Crumpey'...



Peter Glancy, Mufrida Hayes and Philippa Williams fight for posterity in Empty Space's revival of Fav'rite Nation

Out on Faust base

IT'S great to have genius of course, but keep that old horse before the cart — you gotta have heart. That is the defiantly anti-intellectual refrain of a chorus of baseball players, fans, housewives and devils as the curtain falls on Richard Adler and Jerry Ross's musical. It is, however, a song that raises as many questions as it answers...

Advertisement for THE PEARL FISHERS by Bizet, featuring a large image of a woman's face and performance details.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom left of the page.

CHOICE 1

Christopher Hampton's version of A Doll's House comes to Battersea

CHOICE 2

Tim Supple's superb Grimm Tales brings a chill to Leicester

CHOICE 3

Vernon Handley conducts Bliss and Vaughan Williams in Liverpool

VISUAL ART

Pop, but with a dark political passion: Colin Self's work goes on show at the Tate



GALLERIES: Michael Archer reassesses a provocative British practitioner of Pop

Dark side of the boom

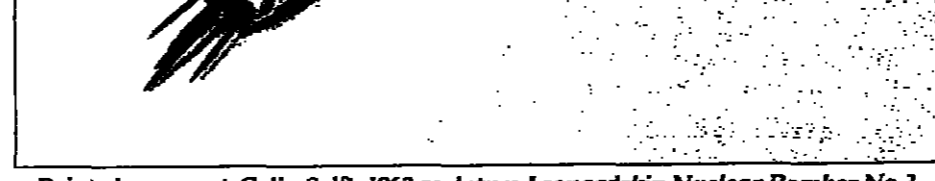
The term Pop Art suggests an exuberant celebration of our consumer society. In Pop painting and sculpture, images drawn from films, adverts, comics and the news media, junk food and mass-produced goods vie with one another to promote the desirability of modern life.

Among British artists whose work was associated with the movement in the early 1960s, Colin Self is something of a special case. Unlike most of his contemporaries, even those who were critical of life's illusions and superficialities, Self spoke openly in his work of the fears that underlay the Western enjoyment of abundance.

Political intrigue, pretence, violence, destructiveness and, particularly, the nuclear threat: all figure consistently in Self's paintings, prints and sculptures. Glamour and seductiveness were there too, overwhelmingly as masking agents for an unsavoury reality.

A large, post-Primo painting from 1963, for example, shows Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies standing against an ideal blue sky while a B55 nuclear bomber flies overhead.

That painting, unfortunately, is not included in the current display of Self's work at the Tate Gallery. The exhibition has been restricted to those pieces which the Tate itself owns. Nonetheless, it still amounts to a considerable show, incorporating some 50 items and covering the past 30 years.



Pointed conch: Colin Self's 1963 sculpture Leopardskin Nuclear Bomber No 2



"Mucksprading Again... (Looking West - Evening, Fields and Farm in a Spinney - From South of Walcott near Happisburgh - towards Riddington, Norfolk, 25 September 1983: Self still deals with social questions, but now in a rural context

Power and Beauty, a series of prints from 1968, brings together human, animal and mechanical in a visual essay on the interplay between power, seduction and death. A fast car, a rampant peacock, a dead whale, an eagle, an armoured vehicle and its crew each successive image charts the mix of wonder and dread.

Two large shadowy female nudes done at the end of the Sixties have the same tactile quality evident in the "anthropometries" made by the French artist Yves Klein. Klein, though, was a showman, getting his models to dunk themselves in blue paint and drag each other across a canvas.

Self uses silver aerosol paint to produce ghostly forms that are far more reminiscent of the post-nuclear human shadows of Hiroshima. Likewise, his elongated Hot Dog Sculpture addresses a familiar Pop theme, but its exaggerated dimensions evoke nothing like, say, the monumentality of Claes Oldenburg's scaled-up ice bags and hamburgers.

Leopardskin Nuclear Bomber from 1963 is a tentative affair, with one wing clad in fake fur, while the other is metallic with a USAF decal, but it is potentially lethal for all that.

The jaggedness of those points is picked up in the nearby Guard Dog on a Missile Base. No. 1. Here the serrations of an albatross's teeth are echoed by the nose cones of a row of rockets stretching across the paper.

After the 1960s, Self returned to his native East Anglia. In the years since then, his work has encompassed a proliferation of styles while retaining a core preoccupation with social issues and larger political questions, such as homelessness and money. Now, however, these are seen from a consciously rural perspective and in the light of Self's concerns for his own family.

Politics, pretence, violence and the nuclear threat recur in Self's work

earlier pieces recur in this later work. The cartoon dog Pluto, drawn in the unnerveingly cosy details of a mounted child's bedroom scene in 1993. There is also a Little Cuddly Baby Communist. The provisional nature of the Leopardskin Nuclear Bomber, or the Monument etching from 1964 fashioned from the impressions of mirror plates, returns in the ad hoc construction of Self's Bird Table drawn in 1987. In a wall-mounted statement at the Tate, Self uses the term "works of fusion" to bring together the various techniques he is currently using. The comparison evoked is with the multifarious sources of music found in a multicultural city, a compound of different people in different situations. This, incidentally, is the only information provided by the gallery - scant sustenance for anyone remotely interested in finding out about the artist.

LONDON

A STRANGE BIT OF HISTORY: Two new plays, one performed by British actor Grant Davis, highly praised at Edinburgh. The first about the birth of a nation, the second about the death of a nation. The first is a play about the birth of a nation, the second about the death of a nation.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson. Sat 7.30pm Sun 5.30pm Mon-Fri 11am and 8pm.

ELSEWHERE

BRIMMINGHAM: The No Young original Thomas Trotter (former original at King's College, Cambridge), updates a new play of his, written in 1964. Today's programme includes works by Mozart, Stanley Schumann, Saint-Saëns and Frank Wedekind.

BREAK OF DAY

Timberlake Wertenbaker's play about a woman who is raped and then lives with her rapist. Royal Court, Strand, Square SW1. 0171 733 1148. Royal Court, Strand, Square SW1. 0171 733 1148. Royal Court, Strand, Square SW1. 0171 733 1148.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre returning in London. House full, returns only. Seats at all prices.

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

A marvellously mad mix of the Tempest with Great Balls of Fire and other cosmic hits of the 1950s and 1960s. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2. 0171 379 5599. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2. 0171 379 5599.

NEW RELEASES

ALL MEN ARE MORTAL (15) Dull but absorbing from Simone de Beauvoir. Midgea Fulham Road 0171 370 2636. Haymarket 0171 437 4343.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol #) on release across the country.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

John Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity. Talky, with small pressures. Lancelotti, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1P 0LP. 0171 437 4343.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES: BRITISH WAREHOUSE, RA 1878-1928. A Japanese artist, Royal Academician Arita, 1928-1998. MARLBOROUGH FINE ART. ROY MILES GALLERY. DANCE: SAILORS WELLS. OPERA & BALLET: ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. THEATRES: ANDREW LOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECES.

ALBERT 0171 380 1820. FIVE STAR SHOW. MARLBOROUGH FINE ART. ROY MILES GALLERY. THEATRES: ANDREW LOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECES.

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There is cause for optimism in the commercial property sector, Christopher Warman reports

Retail leads recovery

The main growth in commercial property over the next six months will be in the retail sector, according to a survey published this week by the Confederation of British Industry and Grimley, the property advisers.

The survey, carried out in October and November, showed that 45 per cent of companies which took part expected to increase their retail property holdings, compared with 14 per cent expecting to reduce theirs, continuing evidence that it is the retail sector that is likely to lead the commercial property market out of recession.

This third six-monthly survey of commercial property trends shows that out-of-town sites remain the preferred locations, but that town centres are becoming more popular, particularly for firms in the office and retail sectors.

An illustration of the retail strength comes from Reading, where Reading Oracle, one of the largest town centre retail developments in the UK, has been granted planning approval. The £200 million scheme, providing 710,000 sq ft, is a partnership between BICC Developments and the borough council, and work is expected to begin this autumn. At Gloucester, Arrowcroft has submitted a planning application for a £50 million redevelopment of the Blackfriars town centre site of 250,000 sq ft, of which 190,000 sq ft is retail. Arrowcroft was selected by Gloucester City Council as preferred developer.

The tone of the CBI/Grimley survey is one of caution, with companies less optimistic than six months ago, and expectations for much weaker growth in business. This is likely to result in a more subdued demand for property: 28 per cent of companies expect to reduce their property holdings over the next six months, while only 23 per cent expect to increase their holdings. This compares with the past six months, when 26 per cent increased their holdings and 24 per cent cut theirs. The stagnant market is reflected by the statistic



Arrowcroft's plan for the Blackfriars town centre site in the heart of Gloucester, looking into Mercers Square

that half the responding companies do not expect to change their property holdings in the next six months, and did not make any changes over the past six months.

The subdued atmosphere of the commercial property market is confirmed by an assessment from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which reports that after an encouraging start to 1995, business confidence fell, developers remained hesitant, and the biggest slump was in the office sector. Long leases no longer suit increasingly short business plans, and worries over rent rates and other outgoings have constrained business occupiers.

This gloomy picture of 1995 is lightened, however, by Graham Chase, RICS commercial property spokesman, who says: "I expect to see a real improvement in commercial property, with confidence in the business community strengthening as the economy

grows. Further reductions in interest rates and unemployment should boost consumer confidence and demand."

The CBI/Grimley survey shows that for the third consecutive period, smaller companies are more optimistic than larger companies. Companies with fewer than 2,000 employees have increased their property holdings over the past six months, and expect to do so again, particularly companies in construction, distribution, transport and communications.

Communications and transport companies failed to fulfil their strong expectations of increases six months ago; of 78 per cent of companies who expected to increase their holdings, only 26 per cent did so.

Those companies expecting to spend on property over the next six months are doing so for increased efficiency rather than for expansion of capacity

or replacement of property. Sudhir Junankar, CBI association director of economic analysis, says: "This is not surprising in the more subdued business climate. With growth expectations weaker than in our last survey, companies are now becoming more cautious before deciding to invest in property."

The main constraint on investment in property emerging from the survey is an inadequate net return. Problems in selling existing property, the cost of suitable accommodation and uncertainty about demand are also given as reasons for constraining planned spending on property.

Alistair Voaden, senior partner at Grimley, says: "In the present business climate it is not surprising that companies are less likely to increase their property holdings than they were six months ago. Business is becoming more efficient in using its assets, especially

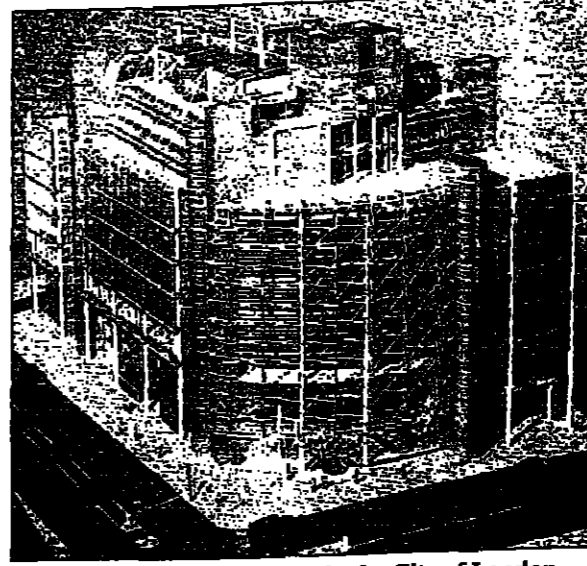
property which represents the largest of the corporate fixed assets. As reshaping continues, large companies are expected to continue reducing the costs of their property holdings. This is likely to be largely offset by small and medium-sized companies growing and needing bigger premises."

In the past six months, the greatest increases in property holdings were in the West Midlands, North, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with East Anglia the only region where property holdings were cut. The South East is the region expecting the greatest increase, followed by the West Midlands, North and Northern Ireland. Those expecting a drop are Scotland, Wales and East Anglia.

■ CBI/Grimley Property Trends. CBI Economic Trends Department, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU, or Grimley, 10 Stratton Street, London W1X 0JR.

A musing site in the City

The Helicon, at Finsbury Pavement in the City of London close to Moorgate and Liverpool Street stations, is claimed to be the first major development to go under construction in the City since the recession. Christopher Warman writes.



Offices to let: the Helicon in the City of London

It is due for completion in July, when Healey & Baker, agent for the developer, London & Manchester Assurance, believes there is likely to be a shortage of modern space.

The building will have 129,000 sq ft of speculative office space, probably for multiple occupation, and 96,000 sq ft of retail space which will be the first Marks & Spencer department store in the City.

The development marks the latest chapter in London & Manchester's history with the site, one of the few island sites in the City. In the 1930s it developed Imperial House, in the 1970s Verum House, and in 1987 it reacquired Dominion Buildings. At the height of the property boom in 1989 it sold

the site for £75 million to Land and Property Trust which went into liquidation, and subsequently bought it back for £17.5 million.

London & Manchester commissioned the architects Sheppard Robson to design a "high-profile landmark building". The firm has produced a steel and glass building with a central terraced atrium creating light and reducing the need for artificial lighting.

The demand for energy efficiency has produced a triple-glazed facade and a chilled ceiling system of air-conditioning that is widely

used on the Continent but is still an innovation here. Within the glazing are movable shutters, which will change position as the sun moves around the building, and help to reduce summertime solar gain, thereby reducing the air-conditioning running costs.

And why the Helicon? In nearby Finsbury Square, London & Manchester has an office on a site which in 1813 the entrance to the Angel Picture Theatre. Healey & Baker and Lamberts acted for Sears, and the tower will now be comprehensively redeveloped and restored.

Quids in

ARGENT Group has secured finance for more than 1 million sq ft of office development, with an estimated end-value of £350 million. The developments, Governor's House in the City of London, six office buildings at Brindleyplace, Birmingham, and four at Thames Valley Park near Reading, are to be developed by Argent Development Consortium, made up of Argent, BT Pension Scheme and Citibank. Argent says the deal is the biggest development funding in the office sector this decade. Construction of the first phase will begin between spring and autumn.

MARKET MOVES

Rutley from its title, a simplification that reflects its development to an international group with more than 90 offices in 18 countries. Knight Frank, with Adkin Commercial, is adviser to Lansdown Estates Group, an MEPC subsidiary which owns the 3.2 million sq ft Milton Park, Oxfordshire's largest business park. Lansdown has started the next phase, the 85,000 sq ft Business Campus, three buildings aimed at high-tech and office users.

Landmark sold
SEARS Group Properties Ltd and Sears Property Developments have sold the freehold of the historic building known as the "gateway to Islington" at 3-7 High Street, Islington, to the Land

Opening soon

LOUIS Dreyfus and Sableknight have been granted planning permission for a new office development on Queen Victoria Street, London EC4, opposite Blackfriars station. The steel and glass building of 343,000 sq ft will incorporate some of the largest floor plates in central London, ranging from 44,500 sq ft to 54,200 sq ft. Construction is scheduled to start at the end of this year, and the letting agents are Jones Lang Wootton and Chesterton.

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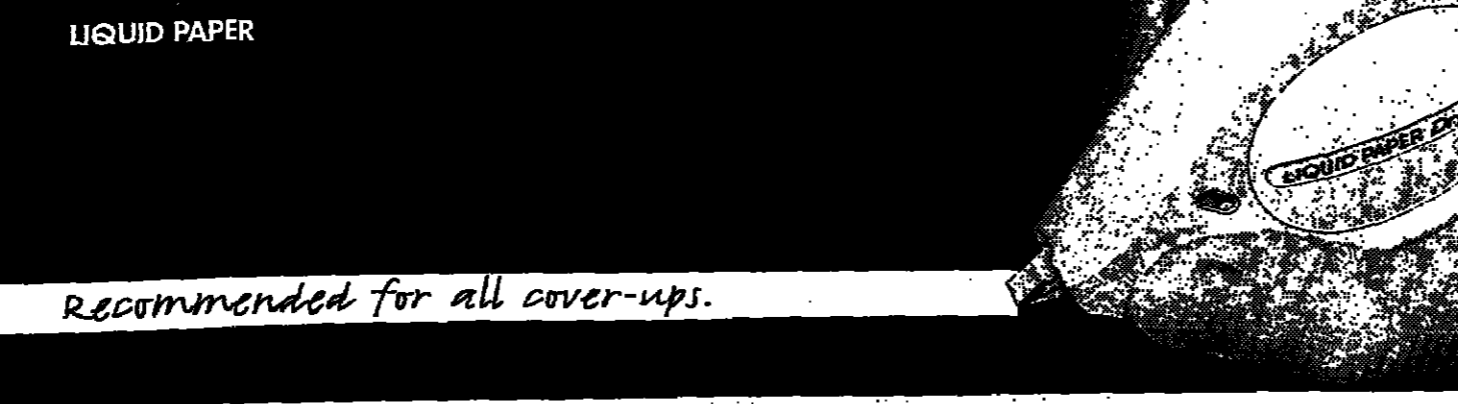
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Secretaries used to be sent on minute-taking courses for meetings, reports **Jennai Cox**. Now they learn how to chair them

Smart way to the top

Employers receive about 20 applications for every secretarial vacancy, so they can afford to be choosy. But when it comes to considering a course to meet the requirements of a new job, so can secretaries. Courses have grown to match the more diverse role of the secretary, and many training centres plan new developments for the coming year.

Basic skills such as typing and shorthand still form the core of many courses, and speed is ever more important. Recruitment agencies will not consider putting on their books anyone with fewer than 55 words a minute.

"Sometimes," says Darren Gristwood, a consultant at Masterlock Recruitment, "the speed of typing and shorthand can be the deciding factor." To the surprise of Nigel Knight, the Principal of St James's Secretarial College, shorthand is more in demand than ever.

"It seems to make secretaries that bit more attractive to employers," he says. But Mr Knight says that his students need and want something more. Journalism, public relations, advertising and sales used to be optional in secretarial courses, but over the

past nine months they have become a key part of training programmes.

He says: "Being able to type is like being able to drive. Boys and girls are expected to be able to do it. Students have to broaden their nets."

The shift in emphasis is proving popular. The college now has a waiting list for courses that also offer interpersonal skills such as "how to handle a boss who is a pain in the neck".

Mr Knight says: "When they are paying up to £14,000 a year, employers want a person who has confidence, a broad outlook, technical ability and, above all, reliability."

Pat Dunn of CBT Recruitment, says: "The skill of good communications comes up time and again in job advertisements, and should be in any course for secretaries."

"Manners used to be vital; now getting on with people is one of the most important abilities."

Manners, deportment and presentation, once taught almost exclusively at "schools for young ladies", are now more widely considered. Sue Stratton, of CBT's educational division, says that image can still make the difference at interviews.

"If you have one smart young lady to see and one who isn't who do you think employers will go for?" she says. Teaching dress sense is not usually covered on training courses, but by building confidence on self-improvement courses, smartening-up can happen naturally.

The first such course for business, developed by the American Dale Carnegie in 1912, is now taught in 72 countries, and there are six regional headquarters in the UK. Liz Clarke, marketing director of Dale Carnegie UK, says that through the 12 weeks of the course she notices an improvement in the way that students dress.

Self-improvement is also a way of winning respect and showing dedication to a job. Steve Farrukh did a language course overseas - often taken by people considering a career move - so he could work in export sales. His company, Ciba Composites, agreed he could work his last three months in Seville, but said there would be no job when he returned. He was down home for an interview with the same company and offered a job in export sales.

Mr Farrukh says: "I demonstrated I was committed to getting into sales." Confidence is one attribute that is vital for secretaries. The Industrial Society is developing courses about presenting a positive image to help secretaries to be efficient and to "look the part".

The society's Marjorie Mair says: "We will be concentrating on effectiveness, and encouraging students to have a more holistic approach so that they are capable of carrying out the managerial tasks now expected of them."

Courses to teach secretaries a range of interpersonal skills have burgeoned. The Industrial Society runs courses on understanding legal responsibilities, time management, handling conflict, decision-taking, leadership, finance, managing change and problem-solving. Allison Alcock of the society says that training usually given to managers is now given to secretaries.

"In the past, secretaries used to be sent on minute-taking courses for meetings," she adds. "Now they will be taught how to manage and chair them." Having extra skills and being up to date with technology gives secretaries added flexibility if changing jobs, but



Steve Farrukh: he was told that his job had ended, but newly acquired language skills helped to win him a new post

it is important to have a career plan and to make sure learning can fit into day-to-day life.

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Breeders voice disapproval over haste surrounding recent election

Pressure mounts on McCloy again

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE highly damaging prospect of the Matthew McCloy affair continuing to haunt racing became a worrying reality yesterday as grassroots members of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA) voiced their criticism of the recently appointed British Horseracing Board (BHB) director over his much-publicised arrest in New York.

Although the McCloy affair was not on the agenda at the TBA's annual meeting in London, two breeders were applauded when they spoke from the floor against the Newbury-based lawyer - and thereby signalled the strength

of feeling which exists throughout racing. Mrs Pat Clark, a Cornwall-based breeder and retiring member of the TBA council, said she spoke for many grassroots members of the industry who she criticised the undue haste surrounding the recent election of McCloy to racing's governing body.

It appeared the BHB's executives were trying to find someone good for them "and not necessarily for the industry". She added: "The BHB is perceived to be struggling to gain respectability and to demonstrate its integrity and yet it railroaded this through at very short notice. "The result is that the troubled chairman of the BHB



Lord Wakeham, left, and Gibson, the TBA's outgoing president, on parade yesterday. Photograph: Alan Weller

industry committee is now enconced as a director of the BHB and thereby a representative of our interests until well into the next century. "We therefore have to represent us someone in whom I and others have little confidence in his sense of judgment. This reflects sadly on the BHB's integrity."

St John Collier, an owner-breeder from Orsett in Essex, spoke of the "contemptuous" way McCloy had insulted people's intelligence by trying to claim that his court appointment of disorderly behaviour was similar to a parking ticket offence. Collier said he had recently received a parking ticket but, unlike McCloy, he had not been handcuffed, involved in

an altercation with police or spent two nights in the cells. "It is contemptuous to say it was just a parking offence. The TBA has criticised McCloy and attempted to delay his election but after his unchallenged appointment declared the issue was closed. "There are a number of people here who do not feel this matter is closed and I think it

may come back to haunt you for some time," Collier added. Privately, senior BHB figures admit the McCloy saga has been a disaster. In retrospect, they wish he had been leant upon to resign - although it is far from certain he would have agreed to quit willingly. Having sat on their hands the BHB is saddled with a lame duck director who

does not enjoy the confidence of many within racing. More worryingly, the acrimony his behaviour has caused, together with his untested elevation to a full BHB director, is in danger of undermining the board's activities. Gerald Leigh, the TBA's respected representative on the board's industry committee where McCloy's appointment was agreed, said: "It was fully discussed and a vote was taken. There is a big agenda for the future and I have to work on your behalf to achieve the very best. I can on topics of major interest. I cannot do it if this acrimonious attitude continues. The matter was decided democratically and there is nothing more to be said."

Aside from the McCloy affair, David Gibson, the outgoing president of the TBA, made a cogently argued case for the breeders having direct representation on the BHB rather than being represented by the industry committee's three directors. If board representation was dependent on racing's aspiration to control the Tote and the Levy Board "breeders and trainers would be left in the wings for an indeterminate period, awaiting a small piece of political pie to fall from an uncertain political sky."

However, Lord Wakeham, chairman-elect of the BHB, said it was premature to contemplate changes to the board's carefully crafted constitution at least until it extends its responsibilities, when a review will inevitably be necessary. He added: "The BHB board is already large enough if it is to continue to function efficiently and if other interests justify representation in the future existing seats will need to be given up."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Table of racing results from Leicester, Lingfield Park, Wolverhampton, and other venues, including race numbers, names, and results.

Jodami's return on hold

JODAMI was yesterday ruled out of the Monkton Handicap Chase at Wetherby tomorrow after suffering a minor setback. "He's got a bit of muck in his throat and he just isn't quite right at present," his trainer, Peter Beumount, said. The 1993 Gold Cup winner has been on the sidelines since his narrow victory at Kelso in November. "This is very frustrating as we've been waiting a long time now to give him another race after all the abandonments. It makes it worse because he's been in super condition until now," Beumount said. The Wetherby race looked an ideal opportunity for Jodami after the race planners had agreed to make the race an open handicap. Jodami is now likely to tackle the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock on Saturday week before attempting to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown for the fourth year in a row. The trainer is still uncertain whether Jodami's main target this season will be the Gold Cup or the Grand National. But Cheltenham is still a strong possibility after One Man's impressive showing at Sandown. "People seem to have forgotten that Jodami was giving 10lb when he was beaten by One Man at Ayr in November. In the light of what's happened since, that was a great performance," Beumount said. Nicky Adams was suspended for two days (January 15-16) for improper riding on Rowlandson Charm in the Rowan Claiming Stakes at Lingfield yesterday.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Table of racing results from Wolverhampton, including race numbers, names, and results.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

Table providing a guide to the racecard, including race numbers, names, and details.

POINT-TO-POINT FIXTURES FOR THE 1996 SEASON

Table listing point-to-point fixtures for the 1996 season, including dates, venues, and participating clubs.

APRIL

Table listing fixtures for the month of April, including dates, venues, and participating clubs.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table listing course specialists, including names and statistics.

FORM FOCUS

Table providing form focus for various races, including names and statistics.

FORM FOCUS

Table providing form focus for various races, including names and statistics.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring contact information and a phone number.

Advertisement for KESLO, featuring contact information and a phone number.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring contact information and a phone number.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring contact information and a phone number.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring contact information and a phone number.

Large advertisement for KESLO, featuring a grid of race results and detailed race information.

Advertisement for Plumpton waterlogged, featuring a photograph and text about the weather's impact on racing.

PUS

problems

IN BRIEF

Wigan rely on Oldham to deliver their title

OLDHAM can wrap up Wigan's seventh successive Stones rugby league championship title by ending the pursuit of second-placed Leeds at Headingley tonight (Christopher Irvine writes). After their Regal Trophy semi-final defeat by Wigan last Saturday, Leeds recall Alan Tait at full back. Graham Holroyd reverts in scrum half to partner Garry Schofield at stand-off, with George Mann dropping back into the pack. Adrian Morley takes the place of the injured Mike Forshaw at loose forward.

Folly of allowing the flower of our youth to wither

Ever so slightly far-fetched a thought, I know, but all the same, what if Mozart had been an English footballer? That is to say, a wonderkid, a prodigy, the master, at an impossibly young age, of all the nuances of his chosen medium? I ask this rather lunatic question in the wake of the Chelsea-Newcastle United game at the weekend, when Michael Duberry, a young centre back with a handful of games behind him, put up a titanic performance to dominate Les Ferdinand, something no one else has managed all season. A prodigy, nothing less. So will he be whisked straight into the England team now, while every aspect of his game rejects any possibility of personal fallibility, or

for that matter, mortality? I fancy not. It would be the same with Mozart. "Well, Terry, how do you respond to the clamour in the press that you pick young Mozart?" "Well, young Wolff's a great little player, got a lot of promise, but it's too early for him; the boy needs more time to develop, to work on a few more aspects of his game. If he can learn to be consistent, I don't doubt that he'll force his way into the reckoning." "Perhaps we should have Mozart as a cricketer, a scintillating batsman with the confidence, style and technique that has set the county circuit on fire. "Will you pick him, Ray?" "Er, no, the time's not yet ripe, we'll send the lad out on half-a-dozen A tours first. You

can't just walk into the England side, he's still got a lot to prove, you know." Not quite the policy that India had when they picked Kamble and Tendulkar, both in their teens, against England a few years back. Both averaged more than 100 as England lost three successive Tests. Nor was it the policy that Pakistan adopted when they picked Waqar Younis, also in his teens. Waqar was then a great burly youth who looked as if he had been shaving since the age of five and, almost at once, he became one of the great bowlers of modern times. What would have happened to him in this country? Coached to become a trundler, perhaps, or told that he was a cricketing nonentity whose only asset was pace.



SIMON BARNES

And then sent to mature on an A tour or three. Now there is a sense in which all this prevaricating has its point. Young men on the sub-continent mature early. For most of them, this is not a place for the soft life.

Responsibilities come early. All the same, in this country sporting administrators do tend to have a kind of institutionalised mistrust of the young. Odd, really, since sport is really for the young. A place in a national team is seen as a reward, something you earn. You do so by having a good career, by being, in the main, the right sort. No lad, you don't go waiting into a national team — you have to earn the right to be there. You have to do your time, do your porridge, wait till you become one of the grown-ups and join the wily old pros club. It is also a fact that most of the truly sublime talents in any game make their real talents known impossibly early: Pelé, Maradona, Cruyff. What would England have

done with such colossal, unmistakable talents? I wonder, for example, if England would have picked Ryan Giggs? Actually, they probably would — and played him in a constrained role along the left touchline ('don't forget to tackle back and mark your man at corners, lad'), and then shrugged at his inability to translate club form into international achievement. Well, that's what happens when you pick boys. For some players, their extreme youth is their best time, when their courage is at its highest, when fear of failure is at its lowest. But the system tends to be don't pick him until he has had time for a little self-doubt to sink in. Older players are safe selections, known quantities, unlikely to make the manager look an idiot. Managers relish that. Is it fair to say that this is the priority of all sporting managers in this country — to avoid the dread fate of looking silly? The tradition has been well-established. England team managers must be seen as grown-up, safe, sensible types. There is in all English national teams an inclination towards a conservative selection policy, of which the mistrust of youth is but the most obvious symptom. A safe squad. Is it so very surprising that English teams tend to fail at the highest level? That Mozart, all show, never amount to anything; wouldn't touch him with a bargepole myself...

Henman provides fillip with triumph over Philippoussis

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski gave British tennis a fillip in the build-up to the Australian Open with unexpected first-round victories in the Peters International tournament in Sydney yesterday. Rusedski beat Richard Krajicek, the No 2 seed, 7-6, 7-6, and Henman had a comfortable 6-4, 6-2 victory over Mark Philippoussis. While Rusedski's triumph over the world No 11 was encouraging, Henman's success was more significant as Philippoussis is regarded as the best Australian prospect since Pat Cash, who won Wimbledon in 1987.

Henman, who beat Rusedski in the final of the national championships in Telford in November, out-thought the Australian teenager, whose game is built almost entirely on power. "I don't know if I outsmarted him but his game can sometimes become a little one-dimensional," Henman said later. "I think that was really the first time I have played as well as I can play." Henman, ranked 46 places below Philippoussis in the world, at No 95, believed his opponent had felt the weight of Australian expectation. Philippoussis rejected suggestions that his game was limited

ed to power, saying he had simply had a bad day. Henman felt his victory and Rusedski's win over Krajicek demonstrated that British tennis was emerging from the doldrums. "In the past we've relied only on Jeremy Bates, but with Greg and I playing better, hopefully we can put British tennis back on the map," Henman said. "In the past ten or 15 years we have suffered."

Born in Montreal, Rusedski became a British citizen last

year and is ranked 38th in the world. He now feels that he has been accepted by other British players. "At the beginning there were a few players who said something but we all get along very well now," Rusedski said. Henman is relishing Rusedski's decision to play for Britain rather than Canada. "A few of the players had some problems, but I was never dissatisfied with the situation... he has a British mother, he has a British passport, he's lived in England. I've said it before — I have no problem with it."

Although a host of seeded players fell along with Krajicek, there were no problems for Goran Ivanisevic, the No 1 seed. The Croatian was barely extended in a 6-3, 6-3 triumph over David Prinosil, of Germany, who arrived in Sydney only yesterday morning after reaching the semi-finals of the Qatar Open at the weekend.

Krajicek will now continue his preparations for the Australian Open, which begins in Melbourne next week, by playing in the Kooyong Classic, which starts today. Krajicek replaces Pete Sampras, the world No 1, who was forced to withdraw from the event because of a virus. Also in the Kooyong field are Andre Agassi, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Jim Courier, Wayne Ferreira, Patrick Rafter, Michael Chang and Stefan Edberg. Martina Hingis, 15, of Switzerland, was twice warned by the umpire after throwing her racket during her 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 defeat by Naoko Sawamatsu, of Japan, in the first round of the women's event of the Peters International. Hingis, who missed four match points, shrugged off her racket-throwing histrionics, saying: "It's not broken, so there's no problem. I'm not the only one who does this."



Henman on the way to victory over Philippoussis in the first round of the Peters International in Sydney yesterday

Hyde Park provides Olympic focus

By DAVID MILLER

THE Olympic Games of 2008 staged in Hyde Park, London? Or, more fanciful still, in Dublin? Both proposals are under discussion, the former the more serious and realistic. Both cities want to see the highly relevant list of bids for 2004, which closes today. A Dublin bid is the brainchild of Tony O'Reilly, the industrial multimillionaire and former rugby international. A London bid, utilising Hyde Park for 2008 and, if unsuccessful, 2012, is the British Olympic Association's (BOA) possible alternative plan should the new national stadium be built in Manchester rather than Wembley. If Hyde Park can hold a million people for a Pavarotti concert, it can accommodate a temporary athletic stadium with a 50,000 capacity for ten days, given its ten adjacent Underground exits. The appeal to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of such an offer — with opening and closing ceremonies at Twickenham, would be compelling alongside the city's other attractions.

The BOA decided against a bid for 2004 immediately after Manchester's second failure, when Sydney was elected for 2000. Craig Reddie, chairman of the BOA, has had preliminary discussions with Richard Sumray, co-ordinator of a previous London bid defeated by Manchester, and will shortly be debating government attitude with both main political parties.



O'Reilly: multimillionaire behind potential Dublin bid

What Reddie has to prepare is an overall plan, embracing village, competitor-transport and main stadium, that would meet the demands of the IOC's evaluation commission. "What could we show them at this moment?" Reddie asks. "It will take a year to put a comprehensive plan in place, and clearly the national stadium, to be decided this spring, is crucial."

So much depends on the entry list for 2004. Peking is not, up to now, an entry, but is believed to have done a deal with Ted Turner, owner of CNN and the motivating force behind the Goodwill Games, to host the event in 2002. Peking would also be a serious Olympic candidate for 2008. Cape Town, if it can get past the evaluation commission's rigid screening, would be an irresistible option behind a personal appeal to the IOC from President Mandela. In the absence of these two candidates, Rome may well win in 2004, making 2012 the next likely target for a European city. London is treading a complex path yet, should it maximise its impact, it could defeat all rivals.

Dublin's interest is provocative, never mind far-fetched. It has been mounted under the umbrella of the Dublin International Sports Council (DISC), a body intended to promote sport in the interests of tourism. O'Reilly is believed to have seen an Olympic bid as a pathway to personal IOC membership, but Patrick Hickey, president of the Irish Olympic Committee, was preferred in succession to Kevin O'Flanagan. "We've never been consulted by Disc and find it strange we're not involved," Hickey says. "We'd be up against cities with 70 per cent of the infrastructure, when we haven't got 0.7 per cent." Last night, the northern French city of Lille became the eleventh candidate to bid for the right to host the 2004 Olympics, joining Athens, Rome, Stockholm, Istanbul, St Petersburg, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and Cape Town. The winning city will be chosen by the IOC in September 1997.

Confident Benn casts gaze beyond Malinga

NIGEL BENN, who makes the tenth defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight title against the South African, Thulane Malinga, at Newcastle Arena on March 2, is determined to go on and seize the World Boxing Organisation title held by Steve Collins, of Ireland. Malinga, 35, the mandatory challenger, has already lost to Benn in a non-title bout in Birmingham in 1992. "I'm not ready to retire," Benn, who aims to meet Collins later this year, said. "There are some good fights left in the old man yet. I still love boxing and I still have things to prove." He will train with Frank Bruno, the WBC heavyweight champion, in Tenerife, and has predicted that Bruno will beat Mike Tyson in their bout

on March 16. "I was Tyson's biggest fan," Benn said. "But how can you be away from boxing for four years and be the same man? I believe in Frank. He hurt Tyson in their first fight and he can crack him open now. I'm having a bet on him." Henry Wharton, the European super-middleweight champion, will rely on tried and tested tactics when he defends his title against Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, in Halifax on Saturday. Wharton was to have met the durable No 1 contender, Frederic Seillier, of France, who was forced to pull out through injury. Wharton will rely on the strategy he used to defeat the Irish southpaw, Sam Storey, last November when he meets Nardiello, who is also a southpaw.

SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE
BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
South on this hand was Martin Barber, one of the TGR regulars. He has paid £1,500 to the charity for the dubious privilege of playing with me in the Barnardos Bridge Tournament. When I asked him if he had money to burn, he said it was cheaper than playing an evening of rubber bridge against Zia Mahmood.

KEENE ON CHESS
BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Gambit accepted
Matthew Sadler, the British champion, has become one of the world's leading experts in acceptance of the Queen's Gambit. In the Hastings Premier tournament, Sadler made excellent use of his expertise to defeat the former Russian grandmaster, Alexander Khalifman, who now represents Germany. Khalifman sacrificed a pawn for a vigorous attack but failed to break through against Sadler's rock-like defence. The British champion then transposed into a favourable endgame, which he decided by a king march to undermine White's queenside.

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard
MANAIA
a. Psychological disorder
b. Thai sea food
c. Maori carving
NENE
a. A filtration unit
b. A slender Japanese bamboo
c. The Hawaiian goose
HERON
a. Highland aquatic bird
b. A hero's monument
c. Heretic's torture instrument

Queen's Gambit accepted
1 d4 d5
2 c4 dxc4
3 Nf3 e6
4 e3 Nf8
5 Bc4 e5
6 O-O c5
7 Qe2 b5
8 Bb3 Bb7
9 a4 d4
10 Rd1 Be7
11 Nbd2 O-O
12 Nc4 Nbd7
13 Nc5 c4
14 e4 Qc7
15 Bf4 Qc5
16 Rac1 Qd7
17 Nc5 Be5
18 Nb7 Qd7
19 Nd3 Rf8
20 Rf4 Bb6
Diagram of final position
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

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48 RACING 43 POINT-TO-POINT FIXTURES FOR THE 1996 SEASON

SPORT

TENNIS 45 BRITISH PAIR HIT WINNING FORM IN AUSTRALIA

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 1996

South Africa win first one-day international England reveal old limitations

FROM SIMON WILDE IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat England by six runs

ENGLAND'S batting collapsed for the third time in nine days to hand South Africa victory in the first one-day international at Newlands last night. Chasing 212 to win, they were cruising at 155 for three in the 37th over with Fairbrother and Thorpe, the left-handers, going well but the return to the attack of Shaun Pollock, the man of the match by some distance, set a flurry of wickets falling and put England up against the clock.

South Africa's early batsmen, though, were generous in the closing stages of the Western Province match and when Adams and Richardson turned round the last Test match.

South Africa's early batsmen, though, were generous in the closing stages of the Western Province match and when Adams and Richardson turned round the last Test match.

South Africa's strategy to promote Richardson and McMillan in the order failed. With Kirsten leg-before to an inswinger from Cork, McMillan was at the wicket in the third over and out by the sixth, while Richardson was out in the eleventh, unfathomably

chasing a wide ball from Martin. Richardson hit over the ring of fielders only twice and Rhodes had to assume the role of aggressor, but the task was beyond him, too.

The dismissal of Cronje, who with Kallis pulled things round from the depths of 77 for five, was full of irony. Cronje had been instrumental — if unlawfully so — in the run out of Thorpe last week and the roles were now reversed. A fine stop on the boundary and throw by Thorpe caught Cronje out of his ground, looking for a third run, which Kallis saw was not for the taking.

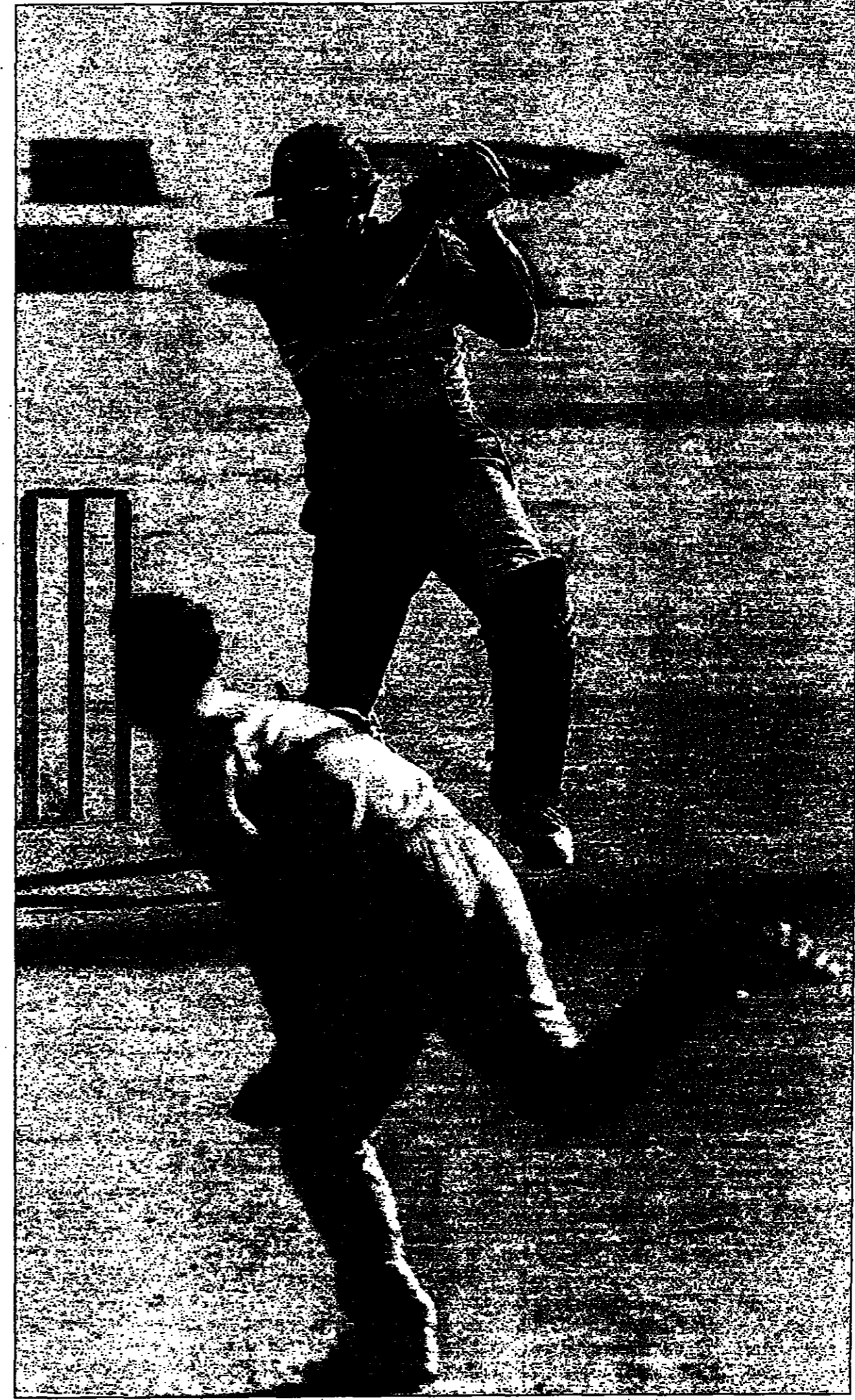
over could have brought them further riches but the extra bounce he extracts undid Kallis, who skyed a catch to deep midwicket. But with Matthews ably holding up an end, Pollock magnificently cut loose and the last five overs of the innings reaped 49 runs and spoilt Cork's figures in the process.

Pollock's share was 36 and raised his score to 66 at a run a ball. His stand of 59 with Matthews was an eighth-wicket record for South Africa in these matches and on the evidence of recent weeks he will be a wonderful acquisition for Warwickshire.

Atherton and Stewart, who put on 59 for England's first wicket, enjoyed no little luck before Donald came on as first change and played his first part of the day. In his opening over, he found Atherton's outside edge and McMillan — who had earlier engaged in another spat with Cork — claimed a catch at slip, but the infamous umpire Orchard conferred with his colleague, Leibenberg, and ruled that the ball had touched the ground.

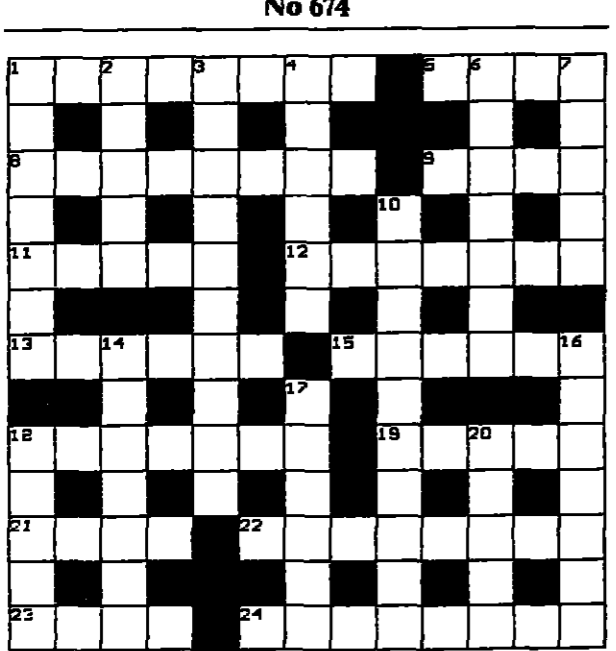
SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for SOUTH AFRICA, ENGLAND, and other match statistics including batsmen names and scores.



Pollock crashes a delivery from Gough through the off side during his innings of 66 for South Africa yesterday

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD No 674



- ACROSS: 1 Make less intense, severe (8) 5 The balance of probability (5) 8 One marooned (8) 9 Stopper; bride (8) (14) 11 Piece of lament (5) 12 Spotty childhood disease (7) 13 Risk, danger (6) 15 Charged nuclear particle (6) 18 Egotistic (7) 19 Punctuation mark; part of body (5) 21 Animal's den (4) 22 Relaxed; without ceremony (8) 23 By mouth (4)

- DOWN: 2 The Scottish play (7) 3 Brief sample; a liking (5) 4 Easy-money source (5,5) 6 Severe shock (6) 7 Similar pair; old jacket (7) 10 Acting on whim (10) 14 — Dobson (Boerbothm) (7) 16 To put at a loss (7) 17 Complain fretfully (6) 18 Volley of fire (5) 20 Low dance under bar (5)

SOLUTION TO No 673 ACROSS: 1 Down tools 6 Pod 8 Candide 9 Extol 10 Mail 11 Pleasure 13 Luther 14 Blazer 17 She-devil 18 Ague 20 Rooms 21 Tocata 22 GBH 23 Dispersal DOWN: 1 Decimal 2 Winnie-the-Pooh 3 Trim 4 Openly 5 Scenario 6 Put out to grass 7 Delve 12 Reversed 15 Overall 16 Hiarus 17 Shirug 19 Ace

Anderton relieves Venables burden

TERRY VENABLES may not have had much to smile about of late, given the decidedly unenthusiastic response of some members of the Football Association's international committee to his promptings for a new contract, but some of the gloom afflicting the England manager was lifted yesterday when Darren Anderton returned to training.

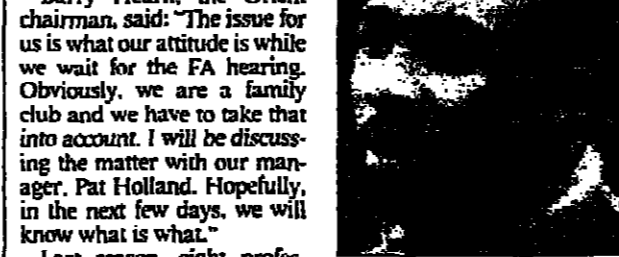


Anderton: in training

Anderton, the one unqualified success of the Venables tenancy, has not played for his country since last summer, when he provided the little

Orient defender fails drug test

FOOTBALL suffered another blow to its reputation yesterday when a Leyton Orient defender was found positive for cocaine after a Football League game at Barnet on November 25.



Stanislaus facing ban

Excellent value short breaks at Thistle hotels

Advertisement for Thistle Hotels featuring offers for 2 nights for £69 per person, details for Golden Valley Hotel and Brighton Thistle, and contact information for reservations.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, with text including 'Venable's', 'Israelis', 'Husain', and 'peace trip'.